

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Are strikes
outmoded?

— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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California execution spurs death penalty debate

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

SAN FRANCISCO — Public debate on the death penalty continues to rage following the execution of Robert Alton Harris, who was killed April 21 in San Quentin's gas chamber. This was the state of California's first execution since 1967.

Harris was convicted of the murder of two teenage boys and sentenced to death in 1979. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court five times prior to this last execution date. California governor Peter Wilson, under pressure from people opposed to the death penalty, held a clemency hearing before announcing April 16 that the death sentence would not be commuted.

In the hours leading up to the scheduled execution, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed several court appeals on the grounds that execution by gas chamber constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. Four stays of execution were granted by the U.S. Court of Appeals in the predawn hours of April 21.

The Supreme Court rejected each stay, and then, in an unprecedented move, declared that any further stays could be enacted by itself alone. Citing "an abuse of the appeals process," the court blamed the ACLU and Harris's lawyers for putting the prisoner through the agony of an on-again-off-again execution. At one point, Harris

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Abortion rights fighters keep Buffalo clinics open

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

BUFFALO, New York — Pro-choice forces have won a resounding victory in defending and keeping open the four abortion clinics here during week one of Operation Rescue's "Spring of Life" national campaign, which began April 20 and is expected to run through May 2.

All week pro-choice activists have been gathering at 5:00 a.m. at the Buffalo GYN Womenservices clinic on Main Street. From there they organize to dispatch people to defend clinics throughout the city against the rightists' threat to physically close them.

The week's activities culminated in an impressive turnout Saturday, April 25, with pro-choice activists clearly outnumbering Operation Rescue. According to the *Buffalo News*, 1,500 were on the pro-choice lines with only 500 on the so-called right-to-life side. In clinic confrontations during the week the forces on each side were approximately evenly matched.

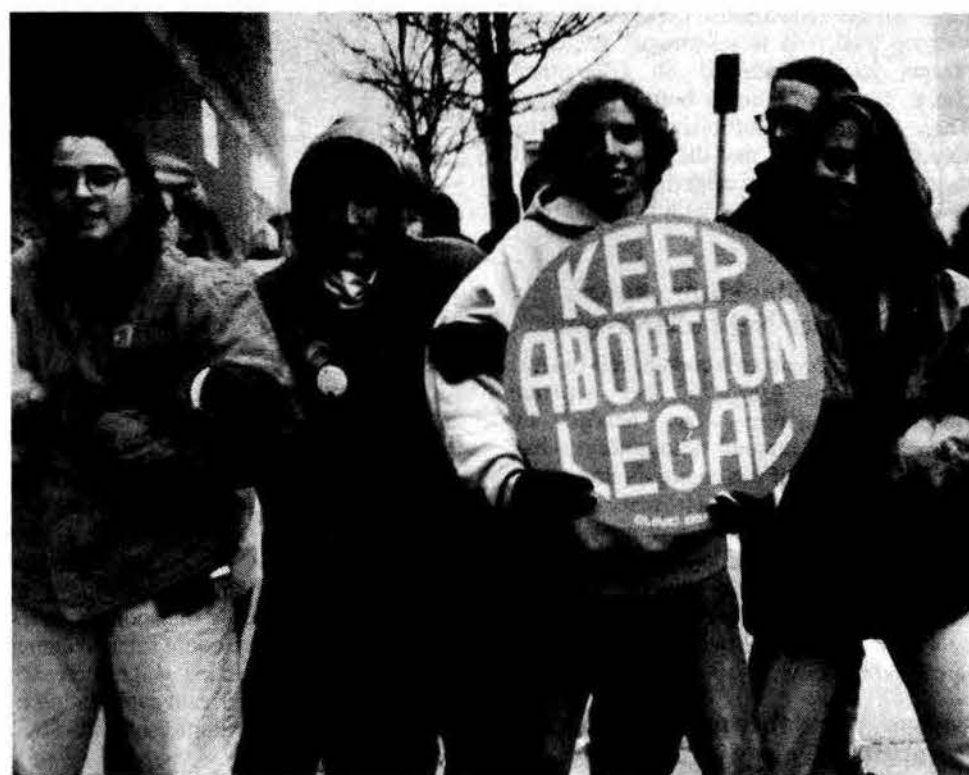
Abortion rights supporters came from throughout New York state and other cities including Toronto, Montreal, Boston, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. The National Organization for Women's 40-member national board changed their meeting this weekend from Tampa, Florida, to Buffalo so they could participate in the April 25 clinic defense actions.

Operation Rescue had also organized additional forces for last weekend's showdown. However, they were clearly outmaneuvered by abortion rights supporters stationed at the two clinics usually open on Saturdays. At the Erie Medical Center on High Street, 50 Operation Rescue pickets were met by 300 pro-choice activists.

A steady downpour of rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the clinic defenders. The pro-choice forces, in their vast majority young people, shouted Operation Rescue forces standing across the street from the GYN Womenservices clinic. Many motorists passing by gave honks of support to the abortion rights activists who responded with applause and cheers.

Chants echo through streets

Clinic defenders could be heard blocks away chanting slogans such as "Not the church, not the state, women must decide



Militant/Brian Williams

Abortion rights supporters defend clinic against Operation Rescue in Buffalo. By the end of the first week of their assault, the rightists were resoundingly set back.

their fate," and "Right-to-life, your name's a lie, you don't care if women die."

Directed at Operation Rescue, they shouted, "Pray, you'll need it, your cause has been defeated," and "We'll defend the clinic doors, you're not in Kansas anymore," referring to the 6-week Operation Rescue siege and blockade of abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas, last summer. Abortion rights activists did not organize from the beginning of the rightist assault to defend the Wichita clinics effectively as it is being done in Buffalo now with a great deal of success.

In January, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry announced plans for the "Spring of Life" campaign in Buffalo after Mayor James Griffin invited the national organization to the city.

The mayor's position is clearly not the sentiment of the majority of people living in Buffalo. According to a poll conducted by the *Buffalo Evening News* only 7 percent of

the city's residents welcomed Operation Rescue, 43 percent did not, and 50 percent said they accepted them coming only if they would not break the law.

In response to Operation Rescue's announced plans, Buffalo United for Choice (BUFC) was formed in January as a broad coalition of groups. BUFC includes the National Organization for Women, the Women's Resource Center at Buffalo State College, the University of Buffalo Pro-Choice Action Committee, the gay rights group ACT-UP, and Fund for the Feminist Majority.

Serious threat

"We were faced with what appeared to be a serious threat. People here responded and successfully met it," said Sharon Fawley, a spokesperson for BUFC and a former local president of NOW. "They have

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Hear the socialist candidates for U.S. President and Vice-President

Just back from trips to North Korea,
New Zealand, Japan and Australia.

Sunday, May 3

LOS ANGELES

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Socialist Workers candidate for President.

SAN FRANCISCO

Estelle DeBates

for Vice-President.

For details on their upcoming talks, see page 12.

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Socialist candidates visit North Korea

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

PYONGYANG, Korea — Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren, and vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates, arrived here April 14 to take part in an international event in solidarity with the Korean people.

As the delegation for the Socialist Workers Party, the candidates came to express their commitment to the fight for the reunification of Korea. Washington launched a brutal war against Korea beginning in 1950 and has occupied the South since the war ended in 1953, leaving the Korean nation divided for nearly half a century.

Over the past several months, Washington has increased its threats of war against North Korea, claiming it is on the verge of producing nuclear weapons. The United States maintains 40,000 troops and nuclear weapons in the South, as well as nuclear armed warships and submarines in the region.

The socialist candidates joined more than

420 delegations from 130 countries around the world. Seven governments sent heads of state to participate. Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, attended and held talks with North Korean president Kim Il Sung. China recently began establishing relations for the first time with the South Korean government. Norodom Sihanouk, the head of state of Cambodia and the president of its Supreme National Council, led a delegation that also included council members Hun Sen and Khieu Samphan.

A delegation from Cuba was headed by Juan Almeida Bosque, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice-president of the Council of State.

Other delegations represented political parties, such as the South African Communist Party, whose delegation was headed by its general secretary, Chris Hani. Several

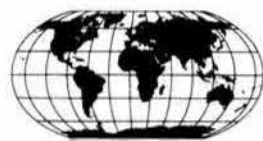
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Militant/Marc Lichtman

James Warren, candidate for president.

An answer to right-wing campaign against jailed unionist — pages 10-11



Beginning this week, *In Brief* replaces the *World News Briefs* column. It will include items from around the world as well as the United States.

Hundreds killed and wounded in Guadalajara, Mexico, blast

At least 212 people died and 1,400 were wounded after a series of powerful explosions tore apart a five-mile section of Guadalajara, Mexico, April 22. The explosions were most likely caused by quantities of a highly flammable liquid dumped into the city's sewers. There are 40 factories in the area of the disaster. All the city's industries pump their waste into the sewer system.

Residents had complained of gas leaks prior to the explosions. Government inspectors called in to investigate the complaints had abandoned an emergency check of the area hours before the blast. Three government officials who told the Guadalajara mayor that there was no need to evacuate the area after the inspectors' visit have been charged with criminal negligence.

Afghan guerillas enter capital, topple former Najibullah regime

Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, fell to rival guerilla troops April 25. Two separate mujahedeen armies — one headed by Ahmad Shah Massoud whose forces had control of much of the country's north, and the other by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar whose militias advanced from the south — swept through the city occupying government ministries, TV and radio stations, and other installations. The day after Kabul's fall, war broke out between the two rival factions that occupied the city.

Nelson Mandela announces separation from wife Winnie

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, announced in a press conference in Johannesburg April 13 that he and his wife Winnie Mandela had agreed to separate.

"In view of the tensions that have arisen owing to differences between ourselves on a number of issues in recent months," Mandela told the press, "we have mutually agreed that a separation would be best for each of us."

Winnie Mandela is appealing a six-year sentence after being convicted of the abduction in 1988 of four young men in Soweto, the youngest of whom later turned up murdered. Though she has maintained her inno-



A street destroyed in the explosions in Guadalajara, Mexico.

cence, two co-defendants recently recanted earlier testimony and alleged her involvement in the assault against the men. On April 15 Winnie Mandela resigned her position as head of the ANC's Social Welfare Department.

Romanian drivers' strike averted after government doubles wages

The government agreed to double the minimum wage of Romania's drivers, who had threatened to strike April 20 if their demands were not met. The threatened strike would have shut down almost 80 percent of the country's transport facilities. The agreement, which could set a precedent for other workers seeking wage increases, marked the most significant capitulation by the government in months of talks with several unions.

Zaire's banking system collapses as inflation gets out of control

The Zaire Banking Association announced that the country's banks will close indefinitely April 20.

The central African country's 12 commercial banks need 10 trillion zaires a month to serve their clients but are receiving only 480 billion zaires a month from the Central Bank. For months the banks have been closed most of the time with withdrawals limited to the equivalent of about \$10.

The currency has become nearly worthless. The largest denomination bill of 100,000 zaires is worth less than a dollar.

Inflation is estimated at 16,500 percent since October.

A new wave of Haitians flees the island in boats

A new wave of Haitians — about 3,500 since the end of March — have fled the island in boats. The renewed exodus followed the collapse in March of a political agreement between Haiti's legislature and ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide that would have allowed for his return.

About 20,000 Haitian refugees have been picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard since a September 30 military coup overthrew Aristide, Haiti's first elected president. The majority of refugees have been forcibly returned to Haiti by U.S. authorities. About 3,500 Haitians remain in detention at the U.S. base in Guantánamo, Cuba.

North Korean assembly ratifies pact on nuclear installations

The Supreme People's Assembly, the North Korean parliament, ratified an agreement April 9 to allow international inspectors into nuclear installations. The accord had been signed earlier by the North Korean government and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The parliament's endorsement of the agreement included the provision that no country that is a signer of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would deploy nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula or threaten the country with nuclear attack. Following the vote, Choe Hak Gun, the minister of the atomic energy industry, said that his country will now "accept nuclear inspection without delay."

The rich have gotten richer during the 1980s

A report issued by researchers at the Federal Reserve and the Internal Revenue Service April 20 concludes that the richest 1 percent of U.S. households owned a bigger share of the total national wealth at the end of the 1980s than when the decade began.

By 1989, the top 1 percent, 834,000 households, owned more wealth than the bottom 90 percent, which includes 84 million households. This upper tier of U.S. families holds 49 percent of publicly held stock, 62 percent of business assets, 78 percent of bonds and trusts, and 45 percent of nonresidential real estate.

Health care for U.S. children and mothers deteriorates . . .

Health care in the United States for children and their mothers continues to deteriorate. This is the conclusion of a report issued by the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality.

According to the report babies in their first year of life die at a higher rate in the United States than in 21 other industrialized nations. Preventable childhood diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough have reached epidemic levels. In 1989 nearly a quarter of all pregnant women went without early prenatal care. The percentage is higher for Blacks and Latinos.

. . . while more children live in households without parents

According to a study done by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Annie E. Cassey Foundation, nearly 10 percent of children in the United States lived in a household headed up by someone other than a parent in 1990, up from 6.7 percent in 1970.

This phenomenon "is creating growing support for the idea of bringing back the orphanages of the 19th and early 20th centuries," noted a *New York Times* article.

At the same time the income of families with children that are headed by a parent less than 30 years old has dropped 32 percent in the last decade and a half. The child poverty rate in these families is now 40 percent, according to the Children's Defense Fund.

Number of people on food stamps continues to rise

The U.S. Department of Agriculture just reported that 25 million people received food stamps in January — up 3 million from one year earlier. This marks the 10th time in the past 11 months that new records have been set for the number of people on food stamps.

42 percent of young Black men in U.S. capital caught up in courts

Forty-two percent of Black men in Washington, D.C., between 18 and 35 years old, were enmeshed in the criminal court system on any given day last year, according to a study by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives.

The study found that in 1991, 15 percent of Washington's young Black men were in prison, 21 percent on probation or parole, and 6 percent out on bond or being sought by the police. As many as 70 percent of Black men in the U.S. capital are arrested by the time they turn 35, and about 85 percent at some point in their lives. A large percentage of those arrests are on misdemeanor charges.

— ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

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Yugoslavia war escalates despite wide opposition from workers and youth

BY SETH GALINSKY

Attacks by Serbian militias have left hundreds dead since February 29, when participants in a referendum approved independence for Bosnia-Herzegovina, in western Yugoslavia. More than 200,000 people have been driven from their homes there since late March, when the fighting intensified.

Some 1.9 million Muslims, 1.4 million Serbs, and 750,000 Croats live in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The violence has escalated in spite of widespread opposition by workers and farmers of all ethnic groups.

Serbian units opposed to the republic's independence and backed by the Yugoslav Army claim the right to 70 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina's territory. On April 22 militiamen fought for control street to street in Muslim sections of Sarajevo, the republic's capital. The city has been under almost daily attack by the Serbian forces for several weeks.

Nikola Koljevic, one of the Serbian leaders, said his forces seek the partitioning of Sarajevo, home to Croats, Serbs, and Muslims. The Serbian militias have taken over more than a half-dozen towns in predominantly Croat and Muslim parts of the republic.

'Allow us to be students'

Soon after the Bosnia-Herzegovina independence referendum, thousands of people there joined antiwar demonstrations in the hope of avoiding the bloody conflicts that broke out last year between rival bureaucracies based in Croatia and Serbia. A concert for "peace and unity" was held March 5 in Sarajevo. Similar actions took place in other Bosnian towns. Demonstrators included Croats, Muslims, and Serbs.

One banner at the Sarajevo event said, "Allow us to be students, not soldiers."

A month later Serbian police fired at another demonstration of thousands in Sarajevo. The protesters carried pictures of Josif Tito and chanted "Bosnia, Bosnia" and "Put down your weapons," while gun battles and explosions could be heard from the mountainsides above the city.

Tito was the leader of Partisan fighters who expelled the Nazi army from Yugoslavia during World War II. The Partisans organized around a program of unity based on equality and mutual respect for all national groups and religions, a fight against the domination of one nation over others, and opposition to all forms of national chauvinism.

The antiwar demonstrations are an indication that many workers and farmers still look to the gains of the Yugoslav revolution.

"In Bosnia, we're all mixed like a cocktail," one Croat told the London *Independent*. "If you make a tequila sunrise can you separate the tequila and the orange juice?"

Militias defending Sarajevo include Muslims, Croats, Albanians, and Serbs, but they are badly outgunned by the Belgrade-backed forces.

"Not all the Serbs are up in the mountains holding guns," Nada Cvitasic, a Serb woman who works in a tobacco factory told the *New York Times*. "There are many Serbs

defending this city."

"These people doing the shelling are just fools," another Serbian woman said.

"I'm not at all afraid of being Serb here," she added. "I am only afraid of [artillery] shells. If I believed there would be revenge against the Serbs here, I would have run away already."

Antiwar sentiment in Serbia

In Serbia opposition to the regime's war against Croatia and attacks on other republics is also widespread. A Belgrade protest in early March drew at least 5,000 people, mostly university and high school students, who shouted, "Down with Sloba" and "Sloba is Saddam!" in reference to Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic.

A striking teacher, at a protest in Belgrade against a 50 percent pay cut, told a reporter, "The cream of our nation, the young ones, are dead or injured or abroad escaping a war they do not support."

In the most recent demonstration against the war, 25,000 people attended a Belgrade rock concert to protest fighting in Croatia and Bosnia. It was organized by a group called Centre for Anti-War Action and a local radio station under the slogan, "Don't Count on Us!"

In spite of opposition to the war, the rival bureaucratic regimes continue to press forward with the conflict.

Armed groups backed by the government of Croatia have attacked Serbian towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serbian militias have killed people at random to create a panic among the Croats and Muslims and force them to flee.

Serbian guerrillas fired not just at Sarajevo's police stations, but at the city's electric company, telephone company, and television station.

The continuing conflict in Yugoslavia, which began with battles between Serbian and Croatian forces last year, has had severe economic effects on the whole country. Production has dropped by at least 30 percent and exports by 22 percent between February and March of this year alone. The latest casualties in Bosnia-



Serbian militiaman kicks bodies of dead Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Herzegovina come on top of the 10,000 deaths and half a million refugees created in the earlier fighting.

"Everybody lost the war, that's for sure," said Joze Mencinger, former vice-president of Slovenia, in northwest Yugoslavia.

U.S. worried about instability

Worried that the conflict could create instability throughout the region, U.S., UN, and European Community officials have sought to bring an end to the fighting. Their efforts have been a dismal failure.

Several thousand soldiers from a United Nations contingent, which is expected to grow to 14,000, have been sent to the battle front between Croatia and Serbia, where an uneasy truce is now in effect.

A small number of UN observers have been sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina. But as a sign of their impotence their Sarajevo headquarters has come under artillery fire, while the UN command post in Banja

Luka is surrounded by Serbian forces. The UN Security Council has discussed sending an additional 10,000 troops to the region.

Washington, which had opposed the moves to independence, announced April 7 that it was recognizing Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Trying to see what Washington can salvage from the situation, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state Ralph Johnson arrived in Sarajevo April 18. He was scheduled to meet with leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

The *New York Times* in an April 23 editorial called on the White House to take more decisive action. "The State Department does no more than mumble," the paper complained.

Arguing that Washington should operate "as it did in the Persian Gulf war," the *Times* editorial called for increasing UN forces in Bosnia and enforcing an economic blockade against Serbia.

Puerto Ricans debate Buchananism

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

A debate is unfolding in Puerto Rico, as well as in the U.S. Spanish-language press, on Patrick Buchanan's presidential campaign.

Buchanan, who seeks to build a fascist-type movement in the United States, says he opposes statehood for Puerto Rico because it is "an embryonic nation" and if it became a state, "Congress would have to speak in two languages." This is part of his reactionary "America first" campaign that scapegoats immigrants and oppressed nationalities for the social and economic crisis caused by capitalism.

Buchanan supports making English the official U.S. language and advocates building a "Buchanan trench" along the Mexican border with armed soldiers to keep Spanish-speaking immigrants out. He supports independence for Puerto Rico for the same reactionary reason he says that Zulus immigrating to the United States would cause more "problems" than immigrants from Britain. "We are a European country, [an] English-speaking country," he argues.

A columnist for *Claridad*, the leading pro-independence newspaper on the island, wrote a piece in late January entitled "Yes, Buchanan!" Journalist Fernando Clemente commented, "Mr. Buchanan is a reactionary who is clear about the fact that the annexation of our island as a 'state' of the federal union would benefit neither Puerto Rico nor the United States." Noting favorably the rightist's support for Puerto Rican independence, he added, "Perhaps it's not completely true that 'the enemies of my enemies are my friends,' but what is certain is that some of my enemies can be useful allies."

In a phone interview Carlos Gallisá, editor of *Claridad* and general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), stated, "Buchanan is a racist and represents the

most reactionary positions of the extreme right of the Republican Party." Nonetheless, Gallisá said, "As an independence supporter I agree with Buchanan on Puerto Rico, although for different reasons. Among U.S. politicians he has the clearest understanding that Puerto Rico is a nation and deserves independence."

The January column by Clemente was answered a few weeks later in a column — also in *Claridad* — by Noel Colón Martínez, a prominent civil libertarian and former head of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Referring to Buchanan's stated support for Puerto Rican independence, Colón remarked, "Since the motives are bad but the objective is good, some independence supporters are trying to see the good side of this offspring of [Benito] Mussolini."

He pointed out, "When it comes to self-determination for Lithuanians [Buchanan] is for it and is concerned about the loss of Lithuanian lives in the struggle for this demand. He is not concerned if at the same time hundreds of Blacks are being massacred in Burundi; when he was asked why the difference, he said something to this effect: *because we are white and so are the Lithuanians.*"

Colón added that "Buchanan promotes prejudice against foreigners and minorities. He has chosen as his campaign slogan 'America first,' which has tragic similarities with the slogans of Hitler's national socialism. . . . One hopes that he will not receive a single vote from Blacks, Jews, Hispanics, and other national minorities in the United States or from the liberal sector. His message is directed to conservatives of a fascist tendency."

Colón also commented that Buchanan's "America First" argument rejecting Puerto Rican statehood was causing political embarrassment to the pro-statehood forces on

the island, led by the New Progressive Party (PNP).

In the April 5 primary elections in Puerto Rico, Bush received 99 percent of the 250,000 Republican votes. Buchanan got less than one half of one percent, slightly more than David Duke.

Residents of Puerto Rico can vote in the U.S. primaries but not in the general presidential elections. The Democratic and Republican parties only exist for the purposes of these primaries. The major political parties on the island are the ruling Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which favors the current "commonwealth" status; the PNP; and the smaller Puerto Rican Independence Party. A wing of the PNP is aligned with the Republicans while another section of the PNP, together with the PPD, supports the Democrats.

In New York City, which has a Latino population of one-and-a-half million, the main Spanish-language daily, *El Diario/La Prensa*, ran an editorial December 27 entitled "Pat Buchanan's Fascism With a Human Face." It stated, "Uncertainty, the crisis in the economy and racial tensions are the fertile soil on which extremism, demagoguery and the simplest and most radical 'solutions' to the most complex problems flourish."

Citing the Duke campaign as an example of such rightist demagoguery, the editorial said, "More dangerous than Duke, however, is Patrick Buchanan." Noting Buchanan's role in the administrations of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, it warned, "The danger he represents is precisely that he offers his ideas wrapped in the garments of respectability. But they hide a xenophobic, isolationist and racist nightmare."

The *El Diario* editors, after describing Buchanan's anti-Semitic and chauvinist views, concluded, "His is a fascism with a human face."

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Urgent appeal for Texas man on death row

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

HOUSTON, Texas — "Unless the people raise their voice, Ricardo Aldape Guerra will be killed," said Alvaro Hernandez Luna in an interview.

Guerra is scheduled to be executed on May 12 for a crime he did not commit. After ten years in prison, he continues to maintain his innocence.

Luna is a leader of the defense effort for Guerra and director of the National Movement of La Raza. Luna himself spent 16 years in prison on frame-up charges. He met Guerra when they were in jail.

In 1982, at the age of 20, Guerra came to Texas from Mexico in search of work. Within three months, he was falsely accused of killing a Houston policeman, tried, and sentenced to death.

On July 13, 1982, Guerra and a friend, Roberto Flores, were stopped by a cop. Flores shot the policeman, and was himself killed when other cops arrived. Guerra was arrested and was charged with the crime.

"He was tried in public opinion, not in the court," Luna told the *Militant*. In the press, the prosecution smeared Guerra as an "illegal alien." His trial occurred at the height of the Simpson-Rodino anti-immigrant hearings in Congress.

At a recent protest meeting here, attorney Maria Elena Castellanos told how Guerra was railroaded.

At the trial, the prosecution displayed two lifesize mannequins representing the cop who was killed and Flores, dressed in bullet-riddled, blood-stained clothing. One juror, Donna Monroe, later said that the

mannequins made her very nervous and influenced her verdict. "I don't believe Aldape Guerra was the actual killer," she said.

Guerra was convicted despite the fact that the gun used to shoot the cop, and the cop's own gun, were found on Flores' dead body.

Since the trial, two eyewitnesses have come forward to confirm Guerra's story. One of them, Hector Anguino, spoke at the protest meeting. "Guerra was not the killer," he said, explaining that he had been intimi-

dated from coming forward earlier by the widespread anti-immigrant campaign.

The protest meeting, held in Spanish and attended by 50 people — predominantly Mexican and Central American workers — was one of a series of events being organized by the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, says Luna. A demonstration is planned May 2.

At the protest meeting, attorney Maria Elena Castellanos told the crowd: "The lawyers will not save Ricardo Aldape Guerra; only you can save him."

The defense committee is asking that messages demanding a stay of execution, executive clemency, and a new trial be sent to: Governor Ann Richards, State Capitol, Room 200, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 475-2592, and Court of Criminal Appeals, Capital Station, P.O. Box 12308, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 463-1551.

Copies should be sent to: Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, 2510 Broad St., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77087, (713) 641-0026. A video on the case is also available.

Execution in California spurs debate

Continued from front page

was already strapped inside the gas chamber when a stay was granted. Harris was removed from the chamber temporarily.

Over 1,000 people gathered outside San Quentin's gates the night before the scheduled execution took place. The vast majority of the demonstrators were part of a vigil opposing the death penalty called by the ACLU, Amnesty International, and others.

Police helicopters hovered above the crowds and at least 50 highway patrol vehicles were parked nearby. Cops in riot gear blocked prison entrances, while others in camouflage looked on from the surrounding hills. Police department photographers and death penalty advocates took pictures of participants in the vigil.

Death penalty proponents were inter-

spered among the crowd. They carried signs reading, "Plop-plop, fizz-fizz, oh what a relief it is," and "Capital punishment = Stronger government." One even had a sign saying, "Thou shalt not kill — Gas him!"

"Murder is murder. How can you support killing Harris? This isn't going to prevent crime," said a death penalty opponent. Albert Grodaway, a supporter of Harris's execution, responded, "Crime has increased. We should go back to Mosaic law — an eye for an eye," he said. "I represent every working man and every working woman. I don't have faith in the system, I have faith in the people. We can organize to change laws, to stop paying taxpayers' money on these delays."

Three students from Fairfax High School came to the vigil. "There is nothing you can do that can be so bad that you should be killed for it," said one.

Georges Mehrabian, a garment worker and Socialist Workers Party candidate for state assembly in the 13th District, attended the vigil. Mehrabian noted that the opposition of his campaign to the death penalty has nothing to do with the crimes that Harris or anyone else is accused of.

"The death penalty is another lethal weapon in the arsenal the rulers of this country use to terrorize working people," he said. "This government of the rich may pick the victims of the death penalty carefully right now in order to soften us up to the idea. But ultimately it is a weapon meant to be used against those fighting for their rights. Who is on death row? Who is in prison? Who are the victims of police brutality? Who are the countless victims of war? Working people, in the United States and the world over."

Why is it that so many people support the death penalty today, one protester asked the socialist candidate. "As things get tougher for working people and no fightback answers are being put forward," Mehrabian replied, "the death penalty appears to many to be a solution to the problems of social breakdown and crime."

"Capitalist politicians, playing on the insecurities that working people feel, pretend to be doing something about these conditions. However, solving the problems workers face is not the goal of the capitalist rulers," Mehrabian explained. "Only through a fight against this system can

working people begin to confront the social breakdown that we are experiencing."

Later that day, the Young Republicans had a table at San Francisco State University. They held up a copy of the *San Francisco Examiner* with a 3-inch headline that read, "Executed" and shouted, "This is a wonderful day for California!" Socialist campaigners on the campus that day report that most students stared at them with disbelief and disgust.

Court strikes down Guam abortion ban

BY DEREK BRACEY

A federal appeals court struck down a law banning abortions in the U.S. colony of Guam April 16. The three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted unanimously to block the law. William Canby, one of the judges, said that the statute "is clearly unconstitutional."

The Guam law makes performing an abortion a felony, with the only exception being grave danger to a woman's health, certified by two independent physicians. The law also makes it a misdemeanor for a woman to have an abortion, or for anyone to ask or advise her to have one.

The law is one of three in the United States that make abortions illegal. Similar laws in Louisiana and Utah are being challenged in federal courts. These laws are in contradiction with the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that constitutionally guaranteed women the right to abortion.

"It would be both wrong and presumptuous for us now to declare that *Roe v. Wade* is dead," said Judge Canby, who wrote the decision. "Surely an outright criminalization of abortion places an 'undue burden' on the exercise of the woman's right."

The decision on the Guam law came days before the Supreme Court began hearing arguments on an abortion law from Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania statute restricts, but does not outlaw abortions.

Kathryn Kolbert, a lawyer for Planned Parenthood, demanded that the Supreme Court make another ruling on the 1973 *Roe* decision. The Court should either reaffirm or overturn *Roe*, Kolbert insisted in her arguments before the Supreme Court April 22.

Abortion rights picket in San Juan

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Some 50 people participated in a picketline at the capital here in support of a woman's right to choose abortion. Picketers gave leaflets to cars leaving the old city during the afternoon rush hour.

Puerto Rico as a colony of the United States is covered by the *Roe v. Wade* decision and will be affected by any new ruling by the Supreme Court.

The April 10 action had been called by Dr. Mary Rivera, who works at an abortion clinic. A number of political groups such as the Taller de Formación Política (TFP) helped build the picket. The TFP has produced books and pamphlets on abortion rights and other topics.

"Maintain abortion legal and safe," read one sign. "No to illegal abortion — yes to sex education," read another.

The marchers included a group of students from the main campus of the University of Puerto Rico in the Río Piedras section of San Juan. One of the marchers was a

teacher who wore a button in support of the struggle by the Teachers Federation for back pay. The Federation has called a strike for May 1 around this issue.

Yolanda Zayas, director of the Women's Affairs Commission, also attended. The Women's Affairs Commission is a government agency that works in areas such as preventing domestic violence, providing services to abused women, and working against sexism in education.

Not everyone observing the picket was in support of a woman's right to choose abortion. A leader of an antiabortion group was seen taking photos of the crowd.

The issue of abortion rights has not been publicly debated in Puerto Rico as much as in the United States. There is no history of large marches in favor of a woman's right to choose. While several of those who have participated in local abortion rights actions are independence supporters, many in the independence movement are influenced by the Catholic Church's position against women's right to abortion.

'One of the most incriminating pictures I've seen'



Minneapolis police interrogating 16-year-old during raid on alleged crack house. This photo by Richard Sennott was taken in December 1990, when he accompanied the cops for a series by the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. The paper decided not to publish the picture, claiming it was offensive to the Black community. Sennott told *Newsinc.*, a photo magazine, that it "seemed like an opportunity to expose tactics, and the free hand the police are given to pursue the war on drugs." The award-winning photographer expressed surprise at the police reaction to the photo. "They liked it," he said. "It's one of the most incriminating pictures I've seen."

Target week: push to get sales drive back on schedule

BY PAUL MAILHOT

"Workers are the ones who make this country," commented a young Black woman from Pontiac, Michigan, as she looked through the *Militant* newspaper. "This is a newspaper written from the point of view of workers." She was one of many people across the United States and around the world who bought subscriptions to the socialist newspaper this past week.

Supporters of the socialist publications are on an international drive to sell 3,500 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 750 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 200 to *L'Internationale*, and 1,250 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* by June 20. This week supporters of the *Militant* and campaigners for the socialist alternative in the 1992 U.S. elections are making a big push to get the drive back on schedule. As of this scorecard the drive is 10 percent behind schedule.

In addition to sending sales teams to Pontiac and Ypsilanti, Michigan, supporters from Detroit are making a big effort to reach union members who are organizing support activities for striking Kroger grocery store workers.

Dave Salner and Lisa Hickler from Salt Lake City, Utah, reported on a successful sales team to the Navajo Indian reservation in Arizona. "The United Mine Workers of America contract with Peabody Coal is up May 12. Miners think the company will take a tough stand against the union. But one leader told us, 'We stand our ground,'" Salner wrote. "We signed up eight subscribers and sold 26 single issues of the *Militant*. We had to cancel a visit to the local campus because we ran out of papers in front of the plant gate."

In Greensboro, North Carolina, Naomi Craine says *Militant* supporters got a good response selling in front of the Fieldcrest Cannon Mills textile plant in Kannapolis. One subscription was sold to a union activist who has been trying to organize the union there.

Another was sold to "a young guy who just got back from a U.S. army base in Germany. He was going back to work and was really interested in the international coverage he saw in the paper," Craine said. "He bought a subscription after saying, 'This is a paper that tells you what's going on.'"

Boston supporters report progress in distributing the *Militant* on the job. Industrial workers in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are leading the way in selling subscriptions. Six were sold on the job this past week, including four during one shift.

The *Militant's* extensive coverage of the Caterpillar strike has been a selling point with many unionists who are trying to figure out the lessons of the strike. Linda Joyce from Morgantown, West Virginia, reports that the articles on the strike were much appreciated by Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC) workers who have been locked in a long battle against the company. Some 500 United Steelworkers of America members and their supporters showed up for a Ravenswood, West Virginia, rally in pouring rain April 25. Strikers recently had their spirits lifted with the resignation of Emmet Boyle, RAC chief executive officer. Boyle has been adamant in opposing all negotiations with the Steelworkers. Negotiations between the company and the union are now set to begin April 29.

A team of socialist campaigners sold four subscriptions, including one renewal to a member of the Women's Support Committee, which has been organizing support for the locked-out USWA members.

Brigitte Groulx from Toronto also sent in a report this week. "We just sold four subscriptions in an hour at a city-owned apartment complex. The first man I talked to told me he didn't support abortion rights and we ended up in a big discussion. His wife came in during the middle of the conversation. I kept talking about why it was



Militant/Brian Williams

Supporter selling *Militant* from literature table at State University in Buffalo

so important for a woman to have control of her own body. He turned to her and asked if she wanted to get the paper. She said yes."

Keep the reports coming in so we can give a good roundup of the results and discussions of the current target week in next week's issue.

BY GARMEZ PARKS

BUFFALO, New York — As defenders of a woman's right to choose began organizing against Operation Rescue's assault here supporters of the *Militant* and the 1992 socialist election campaign were active in making the politics of the newspaper part of the discussion on the defense line and in the community.

During a two-week period beginning at the April 11 pro-choice demonstration, teams of socialist campaigners sold more than 160 single copies of the *Militant* and 13 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Discussions with clinic defenders were lively. Many wanted to discuss strategy to stop Operation Rescue's assault and whether the police could be trusted to defend the clinics. Many also wanted to discuss what socialist candidates stood for.

Mark Freidman, a *Militant* supporter from Detroit, stopped at a Ford plant in St. Thomas, Canada on his way to Buffalo. He sold 13 *Militant* singles and 1 subscription. Workers were interested in discussing the implications of the recently ended Caterpillar strike.

Buffalo clinics remain open

Continued from front page
not been able to close the clinics and that's a major victory for us."

"We've really intimidated Operation Rescue. Our show of force has made a deep impression," said Elaine McGirr, a student from the University of Rochester.

Students from many of the high schools in Buffalo are among the clinic defenders. A big discussion and polarization has opened up in the high schools around this question, explained Performing Arts High School students Kathy Howe and Erin Powrie. However, the high school students involved in clinic defense are determined to stand their ground and win this one. "They [Operation Rescue] can't get past us. They'll never get past us," stated Kathy Howe as she stood on the clinic defense line. "A lot of people are willing to skip school and be here as long as it takes."

The fact that clinics have been successfully defended is a blow to Operation Rescue. "Our goal is always to close down the clinics," said Rev. Robert Schenck. "But if we can't close them down, we want to slow it to a snail's pace."

"Whenever we delay an appointment, that gives a woman time to think," stated Operation Rescue member Jim Anderson. "One hour, one minute, it could mean life for children."

Threats of stronger measures

Working alongside Operation Rescue is another rightist outfit called Lambs for Christ. Frustrated with the failure thus far to close the clinics, the Lambs have vowed to take stronger measures to block patients from entering the clinic. John Tomasello, a Buffalo leader of this group, has declared, "We're prepared for a Lamb-type rescue."

On Tuesday, April 21, Schenck was arrested on disorderly conduct charges after parading around the Erie Medical Center with what he claimed was an aborted fetus obtained almost a year ago that he has named Tia.

"We've taken the fetus into custody," stated Buffalo chief of detectives Angelo Alessandra. "If it is a fetus, it is entitled to a burial." A subsequent investigation by the medical examiner concluded that the controversial Tia fetus had been stillborn at 20 weeks.

Throughout the week, Operation Rescue tried but failed to break through the clinic defenders' lines. Several hundred were arrested after attempting to block a clinic driveway at the GYN Womenservices building and a public road leading to the offices of a doctor in nearby Amherst where abortions are performed.

Some 240 Operation Rescue people remain in police custody after the first week of protests. Most refuse to post bail and could remain imprisoned until their May 15 court hearings.

Operation Rescue is also targeting six local doctors who perform abortions for special harassment. This includes airing a radio commercial charging them with committing murder. This move is reminiscent of the tactics they pursued in Wichita last summer when they threatened doctors and abortion clinic workers with violence, claiming a biblical mandate for these actions.

Efforts to defend the clinics in Buffalo are planned to continue for as long as Operation Rescue maintains its national mobilization here. Pro-choice activists are excited about building on the gains already won during the first week of this battle. To get involved in defense of the abortion clinics, contact Buffalo United for Choice at (716) 855-4033.

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'Internationale		New Internationalist		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Des Moines, IA	130	42	32%	25	5	2	0	40	5	197	52
Cincinnati	20	5	25%	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	5
Salt Lake City	130	32	25%	20	2	2	0	30	1	182	35
Pittsburgh	90	22	24%	5	2	2	0	30	0	127	24
Seattle	120	24	20%	35	12	3	0	25	1	183	37
Newark, NJ	160	31	19%	50	0	15	0	70	5	295	36
Chicago	150	29	19%	35	4	5	0	70	11	260	44
Greensboro, NC	80	15	19%	8	0	2	1	15	0	105	16
New York	250	41	16%	100	3	20	1	110	10	480	55
St. Louis	100	16	16%	5	0	2	0	25	0	132	16
Birmingham, AL	80	12	15%	5	1	2	0	40	0	127	13
Los Angeles	180	25	14%	100	8	4	0	110	8	394	41
Miami	110	15	14%	30	7	15	4	45	3	200	29
Detroit	140	19	14%	10	0	2	0	30	5	182	24
Cleveland	90	12	13%	10	0	2	1	20	4	122	17
Twin Cities, MN	140	18	13%	20	0	2	0	30	0	192	18
Washington DC	130	16	12%	20	4	10	0	55	6	215	26
Morgantown, WV	80	9	11%	3	0	2	0	30	1	115	10
Baltimore	110	12	11%	12	0	3	0	30	0	155	12
Philadelphia	85	8	9%	20	3	3	0	30	3	138	14
San Francisco	150	14	9%	50	4	8	0	70	7	278	25
Houston	80	6	8%	20	1	2	0	20	3	122	10
Boston	135	10	7%	40	2	15	0	50	0	240	12
Atlanta	90	6	7%	8	2	2	0	30	4	130	12
Ft. Madison, IA	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
New Haven, CT	10	0	0%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,845	439	15%	633	61	125	7	1,008	77	4,611	584
AUSTRALIA	45	7	16%	14	1	1	0	10	2	70	10
BELGIUM	3	0	0%	1	0	12	0	8	0	24	0
BRITAIN											
Sheffield	50	12	24%	3	0	2	0	25	5	80	17
London	80	9	11%	6	0	2	0	40	2	128	11
Manchester	50	5	10%	2	0	1	0	30	2	83	7
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	26	14%	11	0	5	0	95	9	291	35
CANADA											
Montreal	65	21	32%	20	3	30	7	50	17	165	48
Vancouver	90	26	29%	15	3	5	1	30	5	140	35
Toronto	90	20	22%	20	2	5	0	45	2	160	24
CANADA TOTAL	245	67	27%	55	8	40	8	125	24	465	107
FRANCE	5	0	0%	2	0	15	0	5	0	27	0
ICELAND	20	4	20%	1	0	1	0	5	0	27	4
MEXICO	0	0	0%	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Auckland	55	19	35%	5	0	1	0	13	1	74	20
Wellington	40	7	18%	1	0	1	0	10	0	52	7
Christchurch	40	6	15%	1	0	1	0	10	0	52	6
Other N.Z.	4	1	25%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
N.Z. TOTAL	139	33	24%	7	0	3	0	33	1	182	34
PUERTO RICO	1	0	0%	5	0	0	0	2	0	8	0
SWEDEN	55	22	40%	30	4	3	0	10	1	98	27
TOTAL	3,535	598	17%	764	74	205	15	1,301	114	5,808	801
SHOULD BE		945	27%		203		54		338		1,539
DRIVE GOALS	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	

Cat workers uncertain as work resumes

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — Most of the United Auto Workers (UAW) members who had been on strike against Caterpillar Inc., some for the past five months, were back at work by April 25.

The company announced that all workers would be called back by May 1, and that 1,350 jobs would be eliminated through early retirement deals and attrition. Caterpillar had said earlier that between 400 and 500 workers had retired since the strike began last November. This means the total positions the company plans to eliminate is between 1,750 and 1,850 — a substantial proportion of its previous workforce of 16,000.

Going into work on their first day back many union members said they were relieved but at the same time angry and uncertain about what to expect.

Gil Moobery, Jr., a selective parts counter with 28 years at Caterpillar, said as he walked into one of the East Peoria plants, "Moneywise I'm glad to be back, but I'm bitter at the scabs and I'm bitter about not having a contract."

Another worker going in for his first day back, a 20-year electrician, said, "The company's been screwing us for 20 years. This is no different." He declined to give his name because "they're firing people in there."

The first UAW members back to work in Peoria after the strike included a few called back to the midnight shift on Monday, April 20. Two of them were interviewed at Mimi's restaurant, where they were having breakfast after coming out of work.

Both worked in one of the tool rooms. One had 17 and a half years at Caterpillar and the other 24 and a half. Their work had not changed much after the strike, except for the meeting that all workers had to sit through with their supervisors.

Management welcomed everyone back, they said, telling the workers that it was time to "mend the wounds." At the same time Caterpillar offered rewards to anyone who turned in a coworker for harassment of any sort. It was explained that anyone turned in would be prosecuted.

The unionists explained it was clear these rewards would be used to protect those who had scabbed during the strike and to victimize union fighters. They chuckled at the suggestion that anyone would get a reward for turning in Vance Security personnel for harassing union members.

During the discussion, after the management's presentation to the returning workers, one UAW member asked about Vance Security, the notorious union-busting thugs hired by Caterpillar during the strike. They were told Vance would eventually be phased out but would remain for the time being.

At one of the East Peoria plants management brought in doughnuts and coffee for everyone each morning at 9:00 a.m. Union members began bringing in sausage and cheese at the same time until management told them that only the doughnuts and coffee would be allowed.

While some UAW members in East Peoria wore union shirts, buttons, hats, and jackets when going back to work, in Decatur a large percentage did this.

John Grayned, a 25-year inspector at Caterpillar in Decatur, expressed his feelings about his first three days back.

He thought that due to the strength of the strike overall and in Decatur itself, where only 11 unionists crossed the picket line, the workers had gone back "union strong."

A lot of people back at work started discussions by saying that the union shouldn't have ended the strike, he said. Then talk would turn to those who had crossed the picket lines and management's threats against the returning workers.

One of the biggest concerns of many unionists was that management personnel were still working jobs side by side with UAW members.

Grayned explained that during the strike "management did our jobs and now they are saying that the jobs don't take as long as we spent on them. This means that in my job

we have less time for inspection of a unit," he said, referring to the earth-moving equipment made by Caterpillar. "We now have fewer inspectors than we had before the strike."

Union officials and management say that there is a grievance procedure in place so that workers can file complaints. However, both sides explain that, at this time, there is no arbitration, which means nothing can be done with these grievances.

Asked about statements in the press from some union officials and others that large numbers of strikers would have crossed the picket line if the strike had continued, Grayned said that he didn't think this was true.

"If the union had been able to help out more, maybe give another special \$2,000 strike check," he said. "I think even some of those who scabbed would have stayed out. The support we had from all over really helped keep us together. It was tremendous," he explained, referring to the growing support from unionists throughout the country for the UAW strikers at Caterpillar.

In discussing the ending of the strike Grayned explained, "People didn't want to go on strike. We were forced out."

"In the end we didn't want to go back with an unequal program but the fight is not over. We're at a disadvantage. We're not happy to go back without gains, but no one is giving up the union."

At this point, negotiating meetings between Caterpillar and the UAW have yet to be announced. Company representatives and union officials have said they hope to have a settlement hammered out within 90 days. Many union members express little optimism about this prospect.

The true record of Walter Reuther

BY PAUL MAILHOT

A Political Biography of Walter Reuther: The Record of an Opportunist by Beatrice Hansen. 27 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 2nd edition. \$2 pamphlet.

"Half a century ago, under the leadership of Walter Reuther, the [United Auto Workers] union vaulted the blue-collar work force into the middle class, forcing Henry Ford and the other sultans of Detroit to treat workers as something more than biceps and sweat. But the Caterpillar strike suggests that the Ford strain of American management is alive and well in Peoria, and Mr. Reuther and the American labor movement are not," says a recent *New York Times* article summing up one of the most important labor battles in recent years.

While big business may be gloating about the weakness of labor, a real discussion of how the unions fought in the past and how they were led would be worthwhile. For those interested in the struggles and the people that made the United Auto Workers (UAW) a powerful union in the 1930s and 1940s — and the role of leaders like Walter Reuther in weakening the power of the unions — *A Political Biography of Walter Reuther: the Record of an Opportunist* by Beatrice Hansen is valuable reading.

Commenting on the many books about Reuther, who was president of the union from 1946 through the 1960s, Hansen wrote, "You might think the whole UAW was due to Walter Reuther, but actually the UAW was born because of a great upsurge of the workers, produced by the economic and political conditions of the time. Reuther played a part in this, but he was not the main figure by any means; he himself was a product of the conditions that existed, rather than the man who did it all."

Hansen was an active revolutionary for most of her life — from the age of 11, when she joined the Socialist Party's Young Falcons, until her death on March 9, 1969, at the age of 43. She had long been a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

The pamphlet is based on a speech she gave in 1955 at the Friday night Socialist Forum in Detroit, a predecessor of the Militant Labor Forum. She was then 29 years old. She had already been working in the auto plants for a decade, mostly at the Dodge Main plant in Hamtramck, Michigan. She was well-known and respected in UAW Local 3 as a militant fighter for union democracy and the rights of Black and women workers.

Socialist beginnings

Hansen describes how Reuther grew up in a strong union family. His father, Valentine Reuther, was an ardent socialist and, according to one writer, a personal friend of Eugene



United Auto Workers president Walter Reuther in 1961.

V. Debs, the great socialist and labor leader earlier this century.

As a young worker and student Walter Reuther campaigned for socialist candidates and became involved in the struggles of auto workers to form a union. He became the president of a UAW local that grew rapidly in the turbulent days of the 1930s when workers fought their way into industrial unions to defend themselves against depression conditions and the attacks of the corporations. Massive sit-down strikes by thousands of auto workers firmly established the UAW in the plants by the late 1930s.

Coming out of World War II auto workers had grown tired of the incessant calls for sacrifice demanded by the bosses and the government. They were in a fighting mood and prepared to take on the corporations in order to make up for lost ground. Reuther emerged after the war as the leader of a big General Motors strike that lasted 113 days. That battle propelled him into the presidency of the union.

Hansen's pamphlet documents how, the more established Reuther became in the bureaucracy of the union, the more uninterested and opposed he became to the socialist ideas and class-struggle leanings he had in his younger days.

Reuther's rise to the upper echelons of the union officialdom was accompanied by a complete break from his previous support for independent political action on the part of the working class. He threw his support and the backing of the union behind the Democratic Party and answered every move toward a labor party with, "Now is not the time."

Reuther also became a proponent of schemes for labor and management cooperation that produced speedup and deteriorating conditions of work.

Following the war, Hansen explained, "The depression that made Reuther and many others radical, gave way to an artificial prosperity, and Reuther's ideas gave way too, and he made peace with the system he had pledged to change."

The conditions that compelled millions of working people in the 1930s, following the Great Depression, to seek new answers to the crisis of the capitalist system are being repeated today. Reading Hansen's pamphlet can help a new generation of fighters today profit from the lessons of the past.

Also included in the pamphlet is an important article on the labor movement, "Meany vs. Reuther: Basic Issues Reflected," by Farrell Dobbs. The article first appeared in the *Militant* newspaper in 1967.

Dobbs points out that after more than two decades of bureaucratic rule of the unions, there had been a "drastic loss of workers' control on the job, which was once powerfully maintained by the militant unions of the 1930s. Organized labor now wields far less economic power than it did in the 1945-46 strike wave. On the great social issues of the day, the union movement appears more or less as a lackey of capitalism, instead of meeting its historic role as a crusader for social betterment."

By the end of the 1960s these factors and the main issue of the day, the Vietnam War, produced a slight rift in the hierarchy of labor between George Meany, then head of the AFL-CIO, and Walter Reuther. Reuther worried that Meany's policies could end up with the bureaucrats facing a rank-and-file rebellion. He hoped that a little self-reform would help the officials maintain their authority.

Dobbs explains that union members had no interest in the debate between the two taking place in the AFL-CIO Executive Council. "What the workers need," he wrote, "is a genuine left wing in the unions based upon rank-and-file militants. To be effective the left wing should be constructed around a program of concrete demands. These should include:

"Full and unfettered membership discussion of all problems confronting the workers, and rank-and-file control over all union affairs.

"A cost-of-living escalator in union contracts to offset rising prices.

"A reduced workweek with no cut in pay. Unemployment compensation at union wages for all jobless persons eighteen or over, whether or not they have been previously employed.

"Equal rights in the unions and on the job for Black workers and for members of other minorities. Full union support to the civil rights struggle as a whole.

"Bring the troops home now. Use the money spent for war to meet social needs here at home. Build an independent labor party based on the unions."

from Pathfinder...
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labor history**

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The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

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Are labor strikes thing of the past?

Caterpillar strike shows the potential strength of unions when workers fight

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Are strikes a thing of the past? Can workers put up a fight when employers plan to hire replacement workers? Aren't there too many unemployed workers who are desperate and willing to cross picket lines?

In the aftermath of the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against Caterpillar, employers around the world are hoping that workers are getting the message that strikes are futile.

The *Wall Street Journal* put it this way, "Caterpillar Inc.'s success in scaring strikers off the picket lines and back to work is likely to make unions even more hesitant to use walkouts to settle contract disputes.

"And management is expected to employ Caterpillar's threat of hiring replacement workers as a means of keeping employees on the job."

But one of the lessons of the Caterpillar strike is exactly the opposite of what employers want workers to think: strikes can be fought and they can be won.

Up to the time of the agreement between Caterpillar and top officials of the UAW, which ended the walkout, the strike had been solid. Instead of being "scared off the picket line," UAW members mobilized to discourage anyone from going back to work and breaking the strike.

Instead of a back-to-work movement, Caterpillar got thousands of strikers and their supporters in front of the factory gates throughout Illinois every morning "scaring" potential scabs away from the plants. Several workers who crossed the picket lines in the first few days were convinced through discussions to come back out and keep the strike solid.

Few returned to work

Only a few hundred of the 12,600 strikers had taken up the company's offer to return.

After five months with very little production at its main plants the company was also starting to feel some pressure. Construction and earth-moving industry analysts insisted that company inventories had reached "perilously low levels."

Unable to get many union members back to work, Caterpillar decided to begin interviewing replacement workers. The company hoped that seeing several hundred scabs going into the plant would demoralize the strikers and start up a real back-to-work movement.

In the face of the company's moves, the big challenge facing union fighters was to reach out for greater solidarity and assistance from throughout the labor movement to stop the scabs. The mobilization of UAW members and hundreds of other unionists during the last two weeks of the strike showed that workers were ready and willing to fight.

With the decision of top UAW officials to call off the strike, union members were never given the chance to organize a real effort to stop the scabs. The company won by default.

Many labor officials argue that unions are at too much of a disadvantage to fight against companies willing to hire scabs. Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, says that "Caterpillar can get away with this [hiring scabs] partly because of a loophole in our labor law and partly because of the current economic climate." He puts forward the perspective of changing the laws before labor can really fight.

Hiring scabs always legal for employers

A 1938 Supreme Court decision upheld an employer's "legal" right to hire replacement workers. But companies have always used scabs to break strikes whether or not there were laws on the books. From the moment when workers began banding together to get a better deal, employers have used scabs as their "trump card." Only massive struggles on the part of labor to resist have ever dampened their enthusiasm for bringing in replacement workers.

Employers' willingness to turn to scabs in a labor conflict stems from their need to get more labor power for less money and keep ahead of the competition. Socialist and union leader Eugene Debs explained the basic conflict between workers and bosses this way: "Capitalists and wageworkers have antagonistic economic interests, capitalists buy and workers sell labor power, the one as cheaply and the other as dearly as possible.

"They are locked in a life and death struggle, there can be no identity of interests between master and slaves, between exploiters and exploited, and there can be no peace until the working class is triumphant in this struggle and the wage system is forever wiped from the earth." Debs, a leader of the Socialist Party, led important labor battles in the early part of this century.

While the bosses have tremendous resources and the strength of the courts and the cops behind them, workers have the power of numbers. It was not only the thousands of Caterpillar workers who had an interest in beating back the company's concession contract, but millions of other workers as well.

Unless that power is mobilized to stop scabs from entering the plants and starting up full-scale production, the employers really do have a formidable weapon against the struggles of working people. The employers and the government were successful in using this weapon during the 1981 air traffic controllers strike and the more recent Greyhound bus drivers strike, among others.

Corporations are using scabs or the threat of hiring them in almost every labor battle now. The *Wall Street Journal* points to a survey of employers by the Bureau of National Affairs, showing that "four of five employers are willing to wield the replacement-worker weapon."

Battles of 1930s

In the 1930s when most of the big industrial unions that exist today were built, it took gigantic battles to overcome the bosses' resistance to unionism. Workers faced even greater pressures than exist today. Jobs were scarce and very few workers were organized. The courts and the cops sided even more openly with the company. Many employers had their own Vance Security-type thugs to intimidate strikers.

However, depression conditions forced workers into a fight. Demonstrations, sit-down strikes, and mass picketing in front of the plants made it possible to stop the scabs from taking the jobs of strikers. Companies were forced to settle with the workers. New leaders emerged from these fights who would not back down to employer demands.

The economic conditions of today are beginning to mirror the hard times that confronted working people in the 1930s. Every employer, no matter how profitable in the past, is looking for ways to cut back. Caterpillar is a good example. After World War II the demand for its giant earth-moving products was massive. A big chunk of the world had to be rebuilt. Caterpillar had almost no competition for many of its products. When union members put up a fight in the three decades after the war, they were able to win some important gains in wages, benefits, and working conditions.

By the 1980s the situation had totally changed. The capitalist expansion that followed World War II had already ended. The world market was much smaller. Caterpillar had major competition from Komatsu of Japan and from U.S. companies like John Deere, which produces smaller construction equipment. Komatsu even has two factories in central Illinois where Caterpillar is based. UAW members at the Komatsu plants have been working since November under a concession contract. At these plants some jobs have been reclassified and those workers are



Auto workers occupy Detroit Dodge plant in 1937. When workers launched massive battles in 1930s they defeated bosses, cops, courts, and scabs. Those victories led to important gains in wages, benefits, and working conditions.

now being paid \$3 to \$4 an hour less. There have also been major cuts in health and pension benefits.

Thousands of unemployed and low-paid workers responded to Caterpillar's ads for \$16 an hour jobs. This response was not surprising given the company's year-long publicity campaign against the union. Unemployment stands officially at 9 percent in the region. The wages of millions of workers have been driven down to near subsistence levels in the past decade. Caterpillar itself has laid off tens of thousands of workers in the past 15 years.

The massive layoffs of the past two decades point to an important challenge before the labor movement. A strike today almost immediately becomes a big social question. If the unions don't find a way to reach out to the unemployed and enlist them in the struggle, the employers will organize them to break strikes and drive down the value of labor power even further.

The unions will have to advance and fight for social programs to create jobs and protect the unemployed. Demands for shorten-

Continued on Page 12

Bush signs order to restrict political spending by unions

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

In an attack on the right of workers' organizations to control their own finances, President George Bush signed an executive order April 13 whose aim is to restrict political spending by unions.

The presidential directive requires federal contractors to notify workers who are non-union, but pay dues, that they can demand refunds for the proportion of their payments that go to political activities unrelated to collective bargaining. Bush issued the order after unsuccessfully seeking legislation that would apply to all workers.

The executive order is based on a 1988 Supreme Court decision. That ruling, *Communications Workers of America vs. Beck*, affects workers who do not belong to unions but who are covered by a union contract and pay dues.

The Supreme Court issued a similar ruling last May against public employees' unions. The case involved teachers at Ferris State College, a public college in Michigan, who were not members of the teachers' union but who paid a fee for being represented by the union in collective bargaining.

Bush also instructed the U.S. Labor Department to require unions to report separately the amount of money they spend for political activities, lobbying, and contract negotiations. Supposedly this is so workers can identify spending for political purposes they oppose.

The White House also called on the National Labor Relations Board to speed the review of workers' complaints about union spending.

Bush, who has shown no such concern about the handling of workers' complaints of employer violations of safety and health rules and other pressing problems, said his executive order would "strengthen the political rights of American workers."

Some 17 million workers in the United States belong to unions and nearly 2 million nonunion workers are represented in collective bargaining. Unions spend somewhat less than \$1 billion a year on political activ-

ities, almost exclusively for lobbying and supporting Democratic Party candidates.

Bush's action was hailed in big-business circles. The National Right to Work Committee, a corporate-funded antiunion outfit, had long been pushing for such a measure. The editors of the *New York Times* applauded it, declaring that "union political power needs checking and vigilance." The British *Economist* magazine noted approvingly, "The order will hamper... the political activity of unions."

Many labor officials downplayed the significance of the government attack. "I don't see it having a drastic effect on us," commented William Bywater, president of the International Union of Electronic Workers, expressing doubts that many workers would seek refunds from unions.

Other officials viewed it as part of the antilabor offensive by the government. "It's obviously an effort to intimidate unions," said Linda Smith of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees in Washington, D.C.

This is not the first time the government has deepened state intervention in internal union affairs in the name of "workers' rights" and "democracy." In 1988, following a decades-long campaign against the Teamsters union under the cover of fighting corruption, the government filed an anti-racketeering suit against the Teamsters and imposed an outside "panel" to run its affairs. The union agreed to settle the suit by allowing the government to expel 138 of its officials and to dictate changes in its election procedures.

In Britain the government launched a vicious slander campaign against the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in 1990, filing false charges of misappropriation of funds against the union leadership. The Conservative Party government attempted to weaken the NUM and replace its leaders with others more to the liking of the bosses. A vigorous campaign by the miners in defense of their union defeated this attack.

Socialist Workers candidates campaign among Minnesota workers and students

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Forty people attended a meeting here April 11 to discuss the next steps in building the socialist campaign in Minnesota.

The meeting culminated a week of intensive campaign efforts, as supporters mobilized to protest and politically answer a tour to the state of Republican presidential candidate and ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan. Chris Nisan, candidate for U.S. Congress; James Warren and Estelle DeBates, socialist candidates for president and vice-president; and their supporters had held press conferences and participated in picket lines and other events during the week. Nisan was the featured speaker at the gathering.

Jo Rothenberg, member of United Transportation Union Local 1000 and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 4th District, which includes St. Paul, reported that the day before she had received a mailing from her Democratic opponent, seven-term incumbent Bruce Vento. "It described all the 'good things' he's doing. But there was not one word about Washington's preparations for war. There was not one word on police brutality. And there was not one word on the effects of the economic depression on working people."

Vento, she said, like all the Democratic and Republican politicians, supports a capitalist system that is in trouble and want us to pay for trying to keep it afloat.

Rothenberg, who was an SWP candidate for city council in St. Paul in 1991, closed her remarks by noting, "From Peoria to Pretoria working people are fighting, and I urge you to join that fight."

In introducing Gerardo Sánchez, candidate for State Senate from St. Paul and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789, Minnesota campaign director Marea Himelgrin explained that earlier that day several supporters or-

ganized leafleting and sales of literature at the packinghouse in South St. Paul where Sánchez works. "There was a great response," she said. "Workers rolled down their car windows and lined up to talk to the socialists." Three *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions were sold and lots of fliers were distributed.

Himelgrin reported that several coworkers are campaigning for Sánchez in the plant, serving as his "in-plant campaign managers."

Sánchez opened his remarks by thanking coworkers present at the meeting for their support. He described some of the discussions in the plant about the campaign, including those with several hostile skinheads. One woman, intrigued by the idea that he was running, asked what he proposed to do about "all those Mexican workers who come to this country to steal our jobs." Sánchez, who was born in Mexico 28 years ago and lived there until 8 years ago, was at first taken aback. "But then I explained she was talking about me and lots of other workers in the plant. And then I told her about the need for international solidarity between workers."

Sánchez, who participated in the massive April 5 march on Washington in support of abortion rights, also described discussions with coworkers on this issue.

All four of the SWP candidates have been to Peoria, Illinois, at least once to solidarize with and meet striking Caterpillar workers and to sell the *Militant*. Susanne Derby, candidate for State Senate from Minneapolis and a member of United Auto Workers Local 879, has been there four times, twice with contingents of coworkers from the Ford truck plant in St. Paul where she works. She told the meeting that "war has broken out in Peoria. They are out to break the United Auto Workers. If workers don't unite to fight Caterpillar, it will embolden all



Militant/Jon Hillson
Gerardo Sánchez, socialist candidate.

employers, cops, and reactionary forces," the socialist candidate said.

Héctor Marroquín, a national chairperson of the campaign for James Warren and Estelle DeBates, the SWP candidates for president and vice-president, also addressed the meeting.

A member of the UAW from Des Moines, Marroquín spoke on behalf of the national campaign. Several years ago he won a decade-long fight to prevent the immigration authorities from denying him, as a Mexican-born worker, the right to live and be politically active in the United States. He described the case of another worker and unionist who fought to defend the rights of Spanish-speaking coworkers in his meat-packing plant and was beaten by cops and framed-up. He has been in jail for nearly four years. "The case of Mark Curtis," Marroquín said, "is a taste of what the

bosses have in store for all of us." He noted that recent struggles against police brutality in Des Moines had opened some new opportunities in the fight to win Curtis's release.

Eric Long, political director of the Africana Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota, introduced Chris Nisan. Nisan, a well-known activist in the struggle against police brutality and against the White Student Union at the university. Nisan is running for Congress in the 5th District, which includes most of Minneapolis.

Some half a dozen members of the Africana Cultural Center and the Akefren Society, a Black grouping, attended the meeting.

Long explained that he had gotten to know Nisan in the fight against police brutality in Minneapolis and the protests against Washington's war against Iraq. It was through these discussions, he said, that he had become convinced that socialism is the road to the liberation of Black people.

Nisan, a factory worker and a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 15199, stated that he has chosen the life of a socialist revolutionary as his "life's vocation" and "that's a good choice for young people today — to join the revolutionary struggle. We live in interesting times." He explained the threat posed by the campaign of ultrarightist demagogue Patrick Buchanan, pointing out that Buchananism is an incipient fascist development.

Nisan explained that the main troops of the campaign will be the scores of young people — on campuses, in high schools, in communities, and on the streets — "who we will be reaching out to."

More than \$700 was raised through the course of the evening. Himelgrin reported that two street rallies have been scheduled for April 18 — one in the uptown area of Minneapolis and the other in St. Paul's westside, a predominantly Latino area. She displayed a large, sturdy, public address system and said it "will get lots of service during the campaign."

The entire meeting was videotaped and is being edited for submission to local cable TV stations.

Socialist Workers Party sends greetings to Korean people

The following message from Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes was sent to the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and the president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on April 10, 1992.

Kim Il Sung
General Secretary of the
Central Committee of the
Workers Party of Korea
President of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Pyongyang, Korea

Dear Comrade Kim Il Sung,

The Socialist Workers Party sends you revolutionary greetings and expresses our internationalist solidarity with the Korean people as you celebrate your national holiday.

Your national holiday is one indication of the Korean people's determination, in face of increasing war threats from Washington, to continue the struggle for reunification of your divided country. Washington — the only power ever to drop nuclear bombs on a population — continues to use the cover of a "nuclear threat" to target the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as well as Iraq and Libya, for acts of aggression. The recent U.S.-sponsored sanctions against Libya are an act of war, which reveal Washington's aim to maintain and use its unparalleled military might against any perceived threat to U.S. imperialism's interests around the globe.

Tens of millions of working people in the United States and throughout the world face the worst social and economic crisis of capitalism since the depression in the 1930s. The wealthy rulers of the United States and every imperialist country have no solutions for this catastrophe, other than wars, racism, police brutality,

assaults on women's rights, union busting, and much more. In short, they aim to unload more and more of the burden of the capitalist economic crisis onto the backs of the world's working people.

Just over one year ago the opening guns of World War III sounded, as the imperialists launched their brutal aggression against the Iraqi people. The results of that war, the fragmentation of the former Soviet Union and the trade conflicts among the imperialist powers that are being sharpened by the world depression, lay bare the instability, explosive character, and underlying difficulties of the new world disorder imperialism faces.

Our party's candidates in this presidential election year in the United States — James Warren and Estelle DeBates — are presenting a socialist alternative to the increasingly reactionary policies of the Democratic and Republican parties. They appeal to young people, workers, farmers, and others around the globe to join the fight to prevent World War III. They advance an internationalist perspective to counter the increasingly right-wing and nationalist demagoguery of the politicians in both parties.

The U.S. troops remain the biggest obstacle to advancing the desires of the Korean people for reunification. The experience of Washington's division of Korea is an example of the reactionary role U.S. imperialism plays around the globe. Our party, our candidates and their supporters, will continue to demand that Washington get its bases, warships, bombers, nuclear and chemical weapons, and troops out of Korea and every corner of the world.

Comradely,

s/Jack Barnes
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

Socialist candidates visit Korea

Continued from front page

party delegations represent new formations that have come about as a result of the disintegration of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. Among the party delegations, there was much discussion on what many guests here have called "the crisis of socialism" since the demise of the Soviet Union.

Large delegations of "compatriots," Koreans living outside of Korea, attended from Japan, China, Russia, Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Various activities, including cultural and political events, were organized for the delegations as part of national celebrations marking the 80th birthday of Kim Il Sung.

SWP candidate James Warren addressed a meeting of Koreans organized to greet the delegations from North America. Also addressing the meeting were leaders of the Communist Party and the Workers World Party from the United States, as well as the Communist Party of Canada.

"The massive mobilizations on this holiday," Warren said, "are an indication of the determination of the Korean people, North and South, to continue to fight for the reunification of your country in face of increasing war threats from Washington."

"Our party's candidates, myself for U.S. president, and the other member of our delegation, Estelle DeBates for vice-president, thank you for your warm welcome. We will use our election campaign to present to working people a socialist alternative to the reactionary course of the Democrats and Republicans — the parties of war, racism, and economic de-

pression.

"Washington's war threats," continued Warren, "are not limited to North Korea. Just over a year ago the opening guns of World War III sounded, as the imperialists launched their brutal aggression against the Iraqi people."

"The results of that war, the fragmentation of the former Soviet Union, and the trade conflicts among the imperialist powers show the explosive instability that underlies the new world disorder imperialism has created. It is not socialism, but capitalism that is in a crisis," said Warren.

Warren blasted the U.S. occupation troops in the South as the "biggest obstacle to advancing the desires of the Korean people to be reunited." The presidential candidates was applauded when he said, "Our party, our election campaign, and its supporters will continue to demand that Washington get its bases, warships, bombers, nuclear and chemical weapons, and troops out of Korea and every corner of the world. U.S. out of Korea Now!"



South Korean troops at border with North Korea

New Zealand's major papers cover tour by socialist candidate for U.S. president

BY JOAN SHIELDS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — The news clippings on this page are from major daily newspapers in New Zealand. They are part of the press coverage given to the visit here of Socialist Workers' candidate for U.S. president James Warren.

Warren toured New Zealand April 19-23 after he and vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates visited North Korea at the invitation of the Workers Party there.

In addition to the *New Zealand Herald*, *Christchurch Press*, and *Wellington's Evening Post*, Warren was interviewed by *Wellington's* morning paper, *The Dominion*. He also had several radio appearances, including an interview on "Morning Report," national radio's main program of news and political commentary, and an hour-long live interview on the local radio station 3ZB in Christchurch.

His visit to the Carpet Yarns picket line in Christchurch, reported in the *Press*, was also covered on TV. Another television station interviewed Warren at the Christchurch Pathfinder Press bookstore.

At a public meeting in Wellington, Warren explained that the rulers of the United States and other imperialist countries are on a new drive to war. "It is generally accepted, by bourgeois economists and working people alike, that we are living in a depression now," Warren said. "We have to look at how the capitalists worked themselves out of the last great depression in the 1930s, through preparations for World War II."

"We want to organize a movement," he said. "A movement of young people and workers who want to fight against the wars, racism, and economic catastrophe that capitalism fosters."



The United States presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers' Party, Mr James Warren, speaks to picketers outside the Christchurch Carpet Yarns factory.

Tour an attempt to unite workers

By NAOMI GILLING

Kicking off his United States presidential campaign by visiting other countries is an attempt to unite working people on a world scale, Mr James Warren says.

"We are avoiding the idea of the American-based campaign. It's backwards and deadly," said Mr Warren, presidential candidate for the United States Socialist Workers' Party.

The party aimed to reach out to people around the world, he said in Christchurch yesterday.

"Our solutions are international

solutions. We make no distinction between people who are eligible to vote for us and those who are not," Mr Warren said.

Nationalism was dangerous, he said. It convinced workers they were in competition with those of other countries. From this idea it was "a short trip" towards justifying war.

Mr Warren has said he believes war — either armed or trade — is likely before the presidential elections in November.

The US would use it to escape the Western recession, he said.

Libya, North Korea, and Iraq were at the top of the list of likely enemies.

He said that because his campaign was international it could show American workers that workers in other countries were allies not enemies. War could be avoided if ordinary people united.

Mr Warren, a steel worker, is visiting North Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia.

He spoke to striking Christchurch Carpet Yarns workers yesterday and addressed the Militant Labour Forum last night. He

is a central leader of the United States Socialist Workers' Party and a long-time activist in the civil rights and labour movements in the US.

Although he gained just 40,000 votes in 18 states as a presidential candidate in 1988, he said the party's campaigns were successful.

"Every time we run a campaign we get somewhere in raising the political perspective and convincing working people they are capable of thinking and acting," Mr Warren said.

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Presidential hopeful on far Left

By BEVAN RAPSON

You may not have noticed, but American presidential politics hit New Zealand shores this week.

A candidate for the presidency, Mr James Warren, is in town, but without any sign of an entourage or the hoop-la that usually accompanies such an endeavour.

However, Mr Warren's efforts are unlikely to strike fear into the hearts of George Bush or Bill Clinton.

The 40-year-old steelworker is a communist running on the Socialist Workers' Party ticket. He advocates a 100 per cent tax on corporate profits and a 30-hour week.

He ran for the presidency in 1988, scoring about 14,000 votes, he said yesterday.

Some might see a trip to New Zealand as an unlikely way to build on that total in a second attempt.

But a central theme for Mr Warren is the need "for working people to take an internationalist view."

Discussion

He said American workers needed to see themselves as part of a class of workers throughout the world.

"For us, the discussion in New Zealand is as important as the discussion we have in Detroit at the auto plant."

Mr Warren described his movement as just "a tiny vanguard" and said his presidential attempt was seen by the mainstream as a joke: "They think we will go away."

But he reciprocates such scornful regard.

The main two-party contest was a "clown show" with all of the candidates saying the same things, he said.

They argued about tactics. None of the contenders could get passionate about ideas, because they lacked ideas, so they became passionate about the kinds of personal charges which have been grabbing headlines in the United States.

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Cancellation

Among Mr Warren's policies are a strong projection of war, and support for the cancellation of Third World debt.

The collapse of the former Soviet Union has been painted in some quarters as a blow to leftists around the world but he said it was having the opposite effect.

The stalinism of the Soviet Union had been "the single biggest obstacle" to giving a glimpse of what socialism was about.

"I don't think the Soviets were socialists at all."

Mr Warren, who visited a picket of striking workers at a Christchurch yarns factory this week, will take his socialist vision on the same campaign trail followed by his better known opponents in the run to the November vote.

"We will be following them around and commenting on what they have to say."

He knew that his plan for a cut in working hours was, for capitalists, "a horrible prescription for disaster."

Capitalists had had their way since the recession of the mid-1970s and that had proved a prescription for disaster for workers.

WELLINGTON EVENING POST APRIL 22, 1992

Worker solidarity or third world war

Mass worker solidarity or a third world war — that is James Warren's message to the international working class community.

The presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) in the United States who visited Wellington at the weekend, is taking his message worldwide to highlight the issue of world politics at a national level.

"They [Republicans and Democrats] put the US first in their campaign — it's all nationalism — but they don't explain that this will mean pushing others in the world back," says the 40-year-old steelworker from Chicago.

He has spent his life fighting for others through unions and civil rights.

"The bread and butter issue this year is that they'll drag people into a war before the election is over."

He says the nationalism-inspired election debate is a desperate solution to the Capitalist crisis, a solution used in the 1930s depression.

The groundwork has been laid in a "new world disorder" emanating from the Gulf War, the breakup of the Soviet Union and a world depression, he says.

"Japan and Germany were drawn in as allies against Iraq and came out resenting the fact that they paid the costs while America waged the war. The US profited by about \$12 billion."

America's determination to maintain its strategic military dominance are also part of the course with moves in North Korea, Libya and economic sanctions and military pressure in Cuba.

And trade wars loom as Japan and Germany continue to outdo America with more efficient produc-

tion of better quality products.

"The problem is that America can't compete. Japan-bashing goes on in America at a mass level. It's all buy-America and destruction of Japanese cars in the guise of unfair trade practices. The whole spectacle is of Japan buying up the country."

So what does the SWP offer? Mr Warren advocates shortening the working week to 30 hours with no reduction in pay, creating 25 per cent more jobs. More workers can defend a strong social security system, essential to protect the old, the young and the sick.

He urges giving the Third World control of their own resources by cancelling their debts. And mass affirmative worker action internationally and racially, by challenging the legislators politically in the streets.

"We've got to show people what they are capable of doing and to present an alternative. The powers that be won't make concessions if we don't say anything."

He says the Soviet dissolution has been the most major advance for socialism since the Russian revolution, freeing millions of people to rejoin workers of the world. Russia lived in a Capitalist bureaucracy under a guise of Communism after Stalin murdered the revolution during the late 1920s, he says.

"In this sense the United States lost the Cold War because they rely on those who exploit the workers to maintain a bureaucracy. Millions of workers will never fall for it again."

Standing alone may seem hopeless, but for James Warren joining a bureaucracy is the antithesis.

Last year he won 40,000 votes standing for the SWP in 18 states. This year the campaign is in 26 states.

What makes a Seattle union official campaign to keep a worker in jail?

Reply to a railroad union local chairman on the frame-up of Mark Curtis

(First in a series)

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

"An unknown paunch puller."

That is how Greg McNaghten, a United Transportation Union official and soon-to-be Burlington Northern Railroad supervisor, describes Mark Curtis in his 29-page defense of the police frame-up of the imprisoned packinghouse worker.

"Curtis' defenders put him on a pedestal he is not entitled to... In fact he was just another guy and not the big Union activist or fighter his defense committee's literature makes out," he contends.

In his attempt to turn Curtis into a faceless nobody, McNaghten echoes others who side with the Des Moines cops and prosecutors and advance their efforts to make the frame-up of the union activist stick.

"He's not that important a person," says Marti Anderson of the Polk County Victim Services in Iowa. "Those of us in the feminist community never heard of him."

"It's all a hoax," claims Larry Carter, president of the NAACP in Des Moines, referring to Curtis's record of political activism.

"If he says he's an activist in the Hispanic community, I would say no," asserts Ila Plasencia of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Each of these people has been an outspoken opponent of Curtis. The comments cited above are quotes from an article attacking

Curtis in the Spring 1991 *On the Issues* magazine.

These forces join an array of police and city officials who have waged a political campaign to try to make the frame-up stick from the day Curtis was arrested.

Keith Morris, the father of the young Black woman Curtis is accused of raping, has been actively involved with these forces in their attempt to keep Curtis in jail and, if possible, break him. A key component of the campaign against the unionist is an antilabor outfit called the Workers League.

In April 1988, before Curtis had been formally charged, let alone tried, Des Moines mayor John Dorrian wrote a United Auto Workers official who inquired about the case. "Mr. Curtis was attempting to rape a 15-year-old female. Charges have been filed, and the evidence is quite clear," he asserted. The mayor repeated the police story that Curtis had attacked and injured one of the officers. "In the course of his restraint, Mr. Curtis suffered an injury to his right eyebrow." (The cops actually shattered his left cheekbone, but such details apparently matter little to those eager to back the frame-up.)

Then why are they all so worried about "an unknown paunch puller"? Why does McNaghten, a union official in Seattle, devote enormous time and energy campaigning to keep a worker in Iowa in prison?

Why does prosecutor Catherine Thune —

as McNaghten reports — take time from her busy workday to spend hours with him devising arguments to justify the frame-up? After all, she got her conviction three and a half years ago and Curtis is in prison serving a 25-year sentence.

One thing is certain. The McNaghtens and Thunes and other rightists campaigning against Curtis are not wasting their time. There are big stakes in this fight — in trying to break Mark Curtis, on one hand, and in the struggle to win the unionist's freedom on parole, on the other.

Far from being a nobody, Mark Curtis is one among a broader layer of vanguard workers, charting a course millions more will seek as the capitalist economic crisis deepens, the employers press their assault on the unions, and Washington goes to war to defend the interests of the wealthy around the world.

That is why the police, city officials, and employers are not content simply to leave Curtis alone now that he is in prison. They need to break him and make him stop fighting as a way to intimidate others who work with him, know of his case, and seek to follow his example.

Each opponent of Curtis's fight has to make it appear as if Curtis was actually not involved in politics, in his union, or in social protest activity. This is because millions of working people and youth around the world know that the cops, the government, and the employers do victimize rank-and-file fighters.

McNaghten, like some officials of the NAACP and others, tries to make it appear as if only "important" people, that is high-level officials, could possibly be the aim of such an attack.

The campaign against Curtis is also aimed at his party, the Socialist Workers Party. The Workers League has a long history of attempting to smear the SWP in the labor movement. Its newspaper, the *Bulletin*, has devoted enormous amounts of space over the years to claims that the party is run by government agents and carries out the goals of U.S. imperialism abroad.

Posing as a socialist group, the Workers League has become well-known among unionists who enter into struggle — not for solidarity that it garners but because of the outfit's divisive tactics and political stance in strike situations. Through an individual named Alan Gelfand, who had entered the party, the Workers League attempted to prevent the victory in the SWP's historic lawsuit against government spying and harassment. Gelfand claimed, while a member of the party, that the suit should be thrown out of court because the SWP is run by the FBI. After being expelled from the party for this traitorous act, Gelfand tied the SWP up in court for years in a suit that sought to have

a federal judge decide who could and could not be a party member.

Workers and others interested in democratic and political freedoms should campaign for Mark Curtis as an elementary question of justice. Winning his fight will strengthen all working people in our confrontations with the bosses and their agents.

The employers, their cops, courts, big-business politicians, and their collaborators among the union officialdom are threatened by "unknown paunch pullers" like Mark Curtis. It is just such "unknown" auto workers who are the obstacle to the drive by the wealthy owners of Caterpillar and General Motors to cut wages and eliminate jobs. This is true not only of the struggles out of which the frame-up of Mark Curtis arose, but of today's fights and battles and what they portend for the future.

Packinghouse workers fight back

The events leading to the frame-up of Mark Curtis began long before he was arrested. They grew out of the sharp resistance workers began to put up to the decade-long offensive by the employers, who aimed to drive down wages and impose a brutal speedup on workers in the nation's packinghouses.

This assault, familiar to workers in many industries, is detailed in the pamphlet *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis — A Packinghouse Worker's Fight For Justice*, by Margaret Jayko (published in 1989 by Pathfinder).

"Iowa," Jayko explains, "is a national center for the meat-packing industry." In that industry, the employers' assault "opened in 1982 when Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) demanded big concessions in wages and work rules at its Iowa City, Nebraska, plant and defeated a strike by the United Food and Commercial Workers local there."

"The government of Iowa subsidized the opening of nonunion packing plants. State agencies helped recruit strikebreakers. And state and local police were used against strikes."

"Other big packers demanded wage cuts and the gutting of work rules, with plant shutdowns as a further threat. The officialdom of the UFCW recommended that workers accept the concessions, arguing that the givebacks would lead to improvements later. By 1985, seventy-five packing plants had been closed and 24,000 workers had lost their jobs. Average wages had been cut from \$10.69 an hour to \$8.24. Two-tier wages were introduced on a wide scale. A murderous speedup had been imposed," Jayko writes.

"The stunning blows delivered to pack-

Continued on Page 11

The frame-up of Mark Curtis

Mark Curtis is a former packinghouse worker who was framed up on charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. He worked at the Swift/Monfort plant in Des Moines, Iowa, and was in the midst of a fight defending immigrant coworkers from the immigration police when he was arrested.

That night, the cops beat Curtis savagely in the police headquarters, calling him "a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." He was railroaded to prison and is serving a 25-year sentence.

Curtis refused to break under this pressure and continues his political work. He has won support worldwide among people who see the injustice in this case and the stakes in a fight against police brutality and frame-ups. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, has won thousands of endorsers.

Earlier this year, Curtis won an important victory when a federal judge ruled that the officers who beat him were guilty of battery and ordered them to pay him \$11,000 in damages, plus court and attorney fees.

Curtis did not receive a fair trial. The prosecution and forces supporting it failed in their central objectives: making the frame-up politically convincing; breaking Curtis; sending a warning to others who seek to struggle today; and dealing a blow to the ability of his party, the Socialist Workers Party, to carry out political activity. This has left widespread doubts about his unjust conviction. The forces behind the frame-up were compelled to continue their attack.

This antilabor and right-wing campaign has found a hearing among those who look to or collaborate with the government, the cops, and the employers against working people seeking to defend themselves from today's harsh economic and social conditions. It has gotten a reception among some who hold posts as labor officials or who claim to speak for women's rights or Black rights.

Prominent among these officials is Greg McNaghten, local chairman of United Transportation Union Local 1024 in Seattle. "My goal since reaching the conclusion that Curtis is in prison where he belongs has been to get the UTU, its members and especially its elected offi-

cers completely divorced from any association with Mr. Curtis or his defense committee," he writes.

McNaghten has gone to great lengths to promote the frame-up, saying he "contacted, and spent several hours on the phone with, Mrs. Kathy Thune, the prosecuting attorney in this case... I also contacted and spoke with the Iowa State Parole Board and the Polk County Prosecutor's Office. I got background information I needed from several different professional agencies and talked to an Officer from Curtis' Union Local in Des Moines."

McNaghten produced a 29-page single-spaced typed document attacking Curtis and promoting the frame-up. He has distributed this to UTU officials around the country and has telephoned those who have supported Curtis in the past, trying to convince them to withdraw their backing.

He has also distributed his document among some rail workers in Seattle. (I had a run-in with McNaghten last February when he was the engineer on the switch crew I worked on for several nights. I told him of the victory Curtis scored in the ruling against the cops who had beaten him. The next night, McNaghten was back, ready to argue. He had called Des Moines, he said, and confirmed that Curtis would not be released from prison. He reaffirmed his intentions to continue campaigning to keep him there.)

McNaghten claims to have "talked to several people who are ardent supporters of Mr. Curtis" and describes encountering a UTU member from Seattle who was campaigning for Curtis at a June 1991 regional union meeting. However, McNaghten repeatedly refused her requests to actually meet and discuss the case, finally informing her that he had made up his mind and there was nothing to talk about.

McNaghten never wrote to or tried to contact Mark Curtis himself — a significant omission by a union official supposedly conducting an impartial investigation of a fellow worker who says he was a victim of a police frame-up.

McNaghten is now in training to become a yardmaster, a supervisor of the switch crews working in a given yard.

"I'm just expanding my options for the future," he says. —H.M.



Local P-9 strikers and supporters at 1986 march in Austin, Minnesota. Like Curtis, they were considered 'unknown paunch pullers' until they fought for their rights.

Supporters of jailed union activist decide to extend fund effort

BY MIKE GALATI

Supporters of framed up union and political activist Mark Curtis have decided to extend their campaign to raise \$75,000 for the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund through the end of May.

The fund was launched out of a victory rally celebrating the January 31 decision by federal judge Charles Wolle. The judge ruled that two Des Moines police officers violated Curtis's civil rights when they beat and brutalized him in the city jail the night he was arrested. The fund was originally projected to be completed by early April.

To date \$31,094 has been collected. This money comes in the form of donations, both large and small, from workers, farmers, youth, and defenders of democratic rights across the country and around the world.

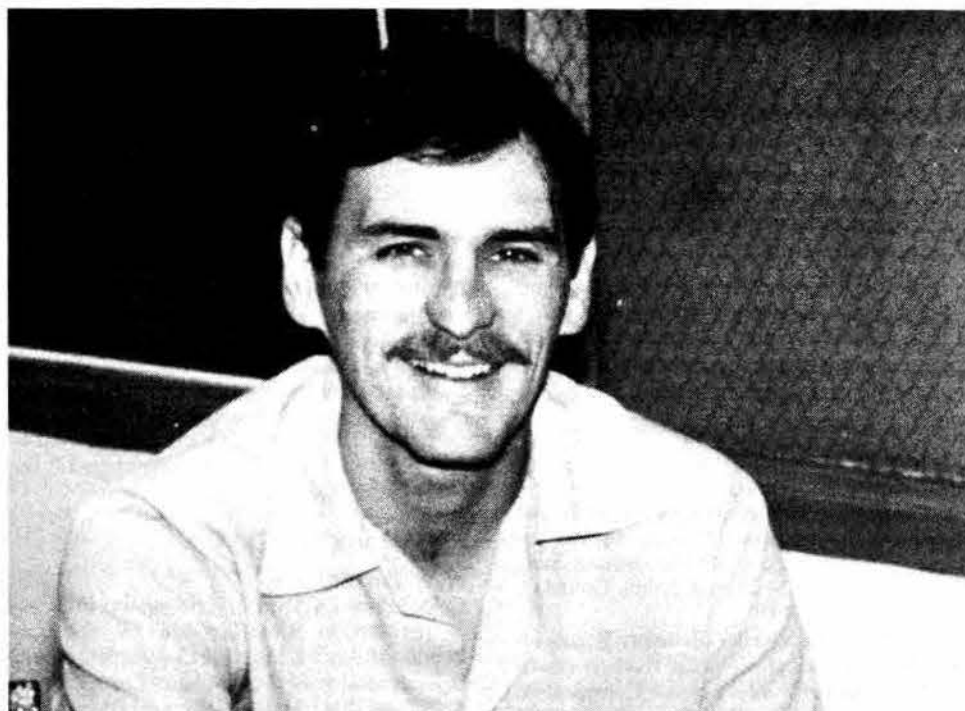
Extending the drive means supporters can build on their initial successes in raising the funds. Local support groups have taken on responsibility for organizing a systematic and aggressive effort to talk to the broadest numbers of supporters and potential supporters about the importance of the recent victory. Support groups are also explaining the kind of fight needed to pursue a federal appeal of Curtis's frame-up trial, and how

to get a campaign going to win the unionist's freedom on parole.

Curtis supporters in Los Angeles report that they have raised \$5,200 in pledges, and have collected more than \$4,700 so far. They accomplished this by organizing to call as many of the hundreds of supporters of Curtis's fight for justice, in the Los Angeles areas, as they could. In their discussions, they took the time to explain the victory won in federal court, what it meant, and what the next steps are in this fight.

Willie Reid reports that supporters in Houston have raised nearly \$1,200 toward their goal of \$1,500. "Contributions have come from a number of long-time Curtis supporters, as well as from a mailing we did to all of the endorses in our area," she said.

Reid also described how an oil worker, who is a Curtis supporter, came up with the idea of organizing a raffle to help raise money for the Parole Now! Fund. "These types of raffles are common at the places where many of us work," Reid said. "We set a goal of covering the cost of the three prizes we bought plus raising an extra \$1,000 for the fund drive. The drawing for the raffle will be on the May Day weekend at the home of a supporter." She explained that a



Mark Curtis in prison at Anamosa, Iowa.

Militant/Margaret Jayko

number of supporters had been selling the raffle tickets on the job. This has proved a valuable way of reaching out and meeting coworkers who are interested in finding out about the case. "We have coworkers who are helping us to sell these tickets and it's been an excellent way to introduce Mark's case to a number of them."

Elsewhere, supporters in Philadelphia report that they have collected \$725 and plan on meeting their goal of \$1,500 within the next few weeks. In Des Moines, the Mark

Curtis Defense Committee recently received a \$10 contribution from a prisoner in Mansfield, Ohio, who had heard about Mark's fight from a relative.

Donations should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311.

Mike Galati is a packinghouse worker at the Monfort plant in Marshalltown, Iowa. He is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 50N.

Why does rightist official campaign against Curtis?

Continued from Page 10

inghouse and other industrial workers in the early 1980s marked a rout of the labor movement. Confronted with deep-going takeback demands from the employers, the labor misleadership capitulated, unwilling to launch a fight or even lead a retreat. More and more unionists, demoralized by the performance of labor officials, voted to approve takeback contracts without a struggle. Many accepted company claims that concessions would save jobs."

As the labor movement was retreating under this onslaught, working farmers were launching struggles against a growing wave of farm foreclosures and depression-like conditions in the countryside.

Pushed against the wall, a layer of workers began resisting further takebacks. The widespread upsurge by tens of thousands of packinghouse workers who sought, in a variety of ways, to turn back the relentless employer assault was met by a counteroffensive of the packing bosses. The giant corporations had the backing of the big-business media, the courts, and the cops. Local, state, and federal governments all pitched in as well. In one of the federal government's operations against packinghouse workers, Mark Curtis found himself fighting along with others to defend his union.

The shift away from simply accepting concessions without a fight was best seen in the 1985-86 strike of packinghouse workers, members of UFCW Local P-9, at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota. In the course of this battle, the P-9 membership began to wrest control over their local union and utilize it to reach out to other working people for solidarity.

The P-9ers were all "unknown paunch pullers" until they stood up and started to fight for their rights. Then they became heroes to workers worldwide. Thousands of supporters went to Austin to join the picket lines or built local solidarity meetings around the country.

Because they posed a real threat to the employers, the state government sent in the state police and national guard to break the strike. Several workers were framed up, fired, and jailed.

The P-9ers also ran smack into opposition from the top officials of the UFCW. Awed by the power of the bosses and fearful of the potential power of militant, organized workers, these misleaders blocked the P-9ers' attempts to win broad support from other working people. They eventually ordered the strikers back to work and when the workers voted to keep on fighting, tried to sabotage the strike by placing the local union in receivership. (A full account of this

important struggle can be found in the Pathfinder pamphlet *The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota*.)

The P-9 strike was followed by a wave of strikes throughout the packinghouses in the Midwest. Mark Curtis, already a militant worker, an activist organizing protests against Washington's war in Central America, and leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party, moved to Des Moines and entered this ferment in the packinghouses.

A vanguard worker

Curtis got a job at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines and worked on the kill floor. He worked day-by-day to promote political discussion among coworkers and urged them to join in action to defend themselves and other working people against the employers' assaults. He distributed leaflets and sold the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to other workers, encouraging them to study and think for themselves.

Curtis organized with other workers to go to other cities to support workers on strike from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada.

Curtis stood firm when Swift tried to fire him in December 1987. He had injured his

back while working pulling paunches — a fast, back-breaking job, especially with the plant processing 2,400 head of cattle each day. The foreman refused to let him seek medical treatment and Curtis was forced to leave work on his own initiative. The company fired him for this "insubordinate" act.

Curtis turned to his coworkers, winning support for a campaign to get his job back. He then went to his union, Local 431 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, and got union officials to take up his grievance against the company. These actions forced the company to back down. Curtis won his job back, not an everyday occurrence at Swift.

Speaking Spanish

Curtis stood out as a threat to the employers since he spoke Spanish as well as English and sought to unite all workers in a common fight. Packinghouses, like many other industries, hire large numbers of immigrant workers, figuring they are desperate for a job and more likely to put up with the dangerous and hard work, low pay, and few benefits. In addition, the employers seek to pit immigrant workers against native-born workers. Black against white, and men against women — all to undermine labor

solidarity and block workers' attempts to mount an effective fight.

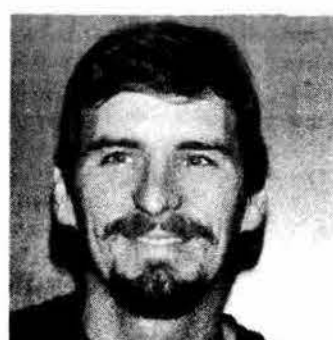
McNaghten takes pains to attack Curtis's "reputation at Swift for defending immigrant workers."

He cites an unnamed "member of Curtis' [union] local in Des Moines" who, McNaghten states, "said that speaking Spanish was Curtis' only claim to fame. In fact, he was just another guy and not the big Union activist or fighter his defense committee's literature makes out."

Actually, as anyone who works in packinghouses knows, bosses look at any white worker who speaks Spanish and does not toe their line as a threat. (Prior to getting a job at Burlington Northern, I worked in a poultry packinghouse in Seattle. I vividly recall the shocked look on the floor boss's face the first time he heard me talking Spanish with Mexican coworkers on the line — and he could not follow what we were saying. Later on coworkers, both Mexican and white, told me the boss gave me an extra hard time during probation — including daily threats to fire me — because I spoke Spanish fluently.)

McNaghten's sensitivity on the question of immigrant workers reflects the reaction-

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from *PATHFINDER* The Frame-up of Mark Curtis

by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$5.

Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$3 for postage and handling.)

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis. Transcript of September 1988 jury trial proceedings that found Curtis guilty of rape and burglary. 446 pp. \$30.

The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis by John Gaige. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis's case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$1.

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis, a VHS video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. This effective 49-minute documentary has clips from TV news broadcasts on Curtis's fight for justice; scenes from the trial; and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Kaku, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. \$15.

Brief from Mark Curtis's successful lawsuit against Des Moines police. This document details the record of cop brutality in Des Moines over the past decade. 20pp. \$1. The judge's ruling in this suit is also available upon request.

For these and other materials (including in Spanish) write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Bulk quantities are available. Payments should accompany orders and checks can be made out to Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Caterpillar Strike: Lessons for the Labor Movement Today. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., May 3, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

Protest Skinhead Murder of Benny Rembert! Speaker: Dan Furman, Socialist Workers candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission; others. Sun., May 10, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Police Brutality and the Rodney King Verdict. Speakers: Activists in the fight against police brutality. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

Socialist Workers Party Presidential Campaign Rally. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. President. Sun., May 3. Reception, 2 p.m.; program, 2:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Police Brutality and the Rodney King Verdict. Speakers: Theresa Allison, co-chairperson of the Henry Peco Justice Committee; Eli Green, Socialist Workers candidate for L.A. County Board of Supervisors; Randall Peterson, victim of police brutality. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico

Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

San Francisco

War and Rebellion in the Middle East. Speakers: George Azar, author *Palestine, A Photographic Journey*; Michael Goldwater, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 8th C.D., member International Association of Machinists Local 1781. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

Northern California 1992 Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sun., May 3. Reception: 3 p.m.; program: 4 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

Colonialism on Trial in Bridgeport: the Case of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15. Speakers: Yvonne Meléndez, Hartford 15 defendant on trial in Bridgeport federal court; Elias Castro, former defendant. Tue., May 5, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall Library, 67 High St. (between Elm and Chapel). Translation to Spanish.

FLORIDA

Miami

Peru: Crisis of the Capitalist System. Speaker: Francisco Picado, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Stop U.S. War Moves Against Libya. Speaker: Nick Gruenberg, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

Buchananism: What It Is and How to Fight It. Speakers: Cleve Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149; Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sat., May 2, 7 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Philippines Today. Speaker: International Representative of the League of Filipino Students. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Outmobilize Operation Rescue! Defend Abortion Rights In Buffalo. Speakers: Myra South, National Organization for Women; Ellen Haywood, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress; others. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

The Rightward Shift in Capitalist Politics: How Working People Can Defend Our Rights. Speaker: Dave Sandor, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m.

1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Malcolm X: Internationalist Fighter Against Capitalism. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Fight the Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Speakers: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America; others. Sat., May 2, 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

Buchananism: What It Is and How to Fight It. Speaker: Nancy Brown, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

TEXAS

Houston

New Stage in the Struggle to End Apartheid. Speakers: Hilton Mokoka, African National Congress; representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

What Can We Learn From the Caterpillar Strike? Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers candidate for Lt. Governor, member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

The Fight to Free Mark Curtis: An Answer to Right-Wing Supporters of a Police Frame-Up. Speaker: Nels J. Anthony, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, member United Transportation Union. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Socialist Workers 1992 Washington State Campaign Rally. Speakers: Kathleen Wheeler, candidate for governor; Mark Severs, candidate for U.S. Senate; David Warshawsky, candidate for U.S. Congress, 7th District. Sat., May 2. Reception 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755.



Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s

by Doug Jenness

Available from bookstores listed below or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY, 10014. Add \$3 for shipping, \$.50 for each additional copy. 35pp. \$3

Are strikes outmoded?

Continued from Page 7

ing the workweek with no cut in pay to provide more jobs, and full compensation for jobless workers including young people who have been unable to find a job can help to build unity among all working people and make the labor movement stronger.

The challenges confronting the labor movement today have been faced by working class fighters in the past. Gains for working people can be made in spite of the "laws and economic conditions." But the crucial ingredient needed is a broader vision for the labor movement, which working people will be able to gain through struggle.

Karl Marx, a founding leader of the revolutionary workers movement, wrote in 1866 when fighting workers were facing similar challenges as today, "Apart from their original purposes, they [unions] must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its complete emancipation."

"They must aid every social and political movement tending in that direction. Considering themselves and acting as the champions and representatives of the whole working class, they cannot fail to enlist the non-society [unorganized] men into their ranks. They must look carefully after the interests of the worst-paid trades, such as the agricultural laborers, rendered powerless by exceptional circumstances. They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions."

Are strikes a thing of the past? They are. But they are also of the present, and of the future.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Celebrate a Victory Against Police Brutality. Join the Fight to Free Trade Unionist and Political Activist Mark Curtis. Video and international buffet. Sun., May 3, 4-7 p.m. 184 Bowery St. Donation: \$8. For more information: (718) 965-1510.

TEXAS

Houston

Celebrate May Day: Backyard Party for Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund Raffle. Sat., May 2, 6-10 p.m. 1351 Goswell, Channelview, Texas. Watch video *Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Drawing at 8 p.m. For more information: (713) 522-8054 or 452-7214.

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, New International, Nouvelle Internationale, Nueva Internacional, and L'internationaliste.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 NE 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 172 Trinity Ave. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: New York: 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip: 27406. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. **Cleveland:** 1863 W. 25th St. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8196. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Social Crisis in Peru. Speaker: Coletta Youngers, Senior Associate for Peru, Washington Office on Latin America; Margrethe Siem, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1470. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

Cuba Today: Report from the Sixth Congress of the Union of Young Communists. Speaker: Aaron Ruby, Socialist Workers candidate for D.C. council at-large, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

BRITAIN

Sheffield

The Crisis of the Criminal Justice System. Speakers: Andrew Green, supporter of *Conviction*, campaign newsletter against frame-ups; Jenny Prideaux, supporter, Mark Curtis Defense Committee; representative Communist League. Sat., May 2, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

Caterpillar Strike: What Happened? Speakers: Heidi Rose, member IAM; Gary Watson, Communist League, member Canadian Auto Workers Local 1285. Sat., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Translation in French. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

No to War Moves Against Iraq, Libya, and North Korea! Speaker: Member of the Young Socialists. 3967 Main St. (Between 23rd and 24th Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Union official pushes to keep worker in jail

Continued from Page 11

ary position taken by many union officials, echoing the employers' lie that immigrants are responsible for the economic problems workers in the United States face. They try to make sure working people do not focus the blame for this crisis on the employers and the workings of the capitalist economy, but instead pit workers against each other in a mad scramble for jobs.

The January 1992 issue of the *UTU News* gives a particularly horrendous example of this divisive, anti-worker policy. In a feature article on the United States-Mexico trade negotiations, the union paper says, "UTU representatives at the talks want assurances that Mexican rail workers will not take American rail jobs... Rail labor representatives said they fear that negotiators will work out a special arrangement that bypasses current prohibitions against Mexican workers on U.S. tracks."

This outrageous approach, blaming Mexican workers instead of the capitalist employers for unemployment, is typical of the approach of the top union officialdom.

(to be continued)

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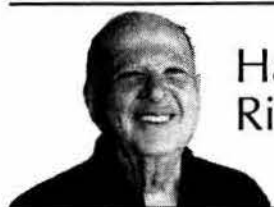
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Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Smart bomber — Lt. Gen. Royal Moore, commander of Marine Corps air units in Operation Desert Storm, admitted he had a



Harry Ring

junior officer complete parts of his flight requalification test and then lied about it. The general was reprimanded and will retire — with, we assume, full benefits.

"We" and "they"? — Remem-

ber the media uproar when a Japanese official smeared U.S. workers as lazy and overpaid? Now Ward's Auto World reports the finding of a survey of 500 U.S. auto execs about auto workers: "Many have a poor attitude about work and building quality and are 'spoiled' by strong unions that protect slackers and discourage involvement in problem-solving."

It always was a great society — An article in *U.S. News & World Report* on the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic says widows of band members who went down with the ship were billed \$3.50 for lost uniforms.

Makes sense — On the 10th an-

niversary of the British war against Argentina to maintain its grip on the Malvinas Islands, a news report said the British have erected a monument there to those who "liberated us." Scoffed an islander: "The British have not liberated us. They came here to retain the last remnant of their colonial empire and ensure possible access to oil and uranium resources."

Merely pace-settlers — Surely some congressman will note that the number of bounced checks in the country increased 33 percent from 1988 to 1990, with the trend continuing. And, it could be argued, if ordinary folks didn't have to pay bank penalties on rubber checks

and had no limit on the number they could get away with, the figures would be even higher.

He works in mysterious ways — In Italy, 33 people have now been convicted in the 1982 collapse of Banco Ambrosiano. The bank folded after defaults on loans totaling \$1.3 billion by several dummy companies, which had offered letters of credit provided by the Institute for Religious Works — the Vatican Bank. Italian courts ruled a treaty barred prosecuting the Vatican Bank.

They're on the case — With public disclosure that the Army permitted McDonnell Douglas to settle \$50 million in contract overcharges

for less than a nickel on the dollar, the Army's Criminal Investigative Division is checking it out.

The real issue? — The Army's Criminal Investigative Division is also probing how the media got the information on the McDonnell Douglas settlement.

Didn't quite transcend — An ex-disciple of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi won \$130,000 in a false advertising suit against the guru's international chain, Transcendental Meditation. Contrary to the ads, the man testified, he didn't learn to levitate. Responded the guru, "You know, some planes fly, others don't."

Detroit socialist candidates back Kroger strikers

BY CANDACE WAGNER

DETROIT — Socialist candidates James Harris and Elizabeth Kealy and their supporters are building support for the strike by grocery store workers against Kroger in the Detroit area.

Seven thousand workers voted overwhelmingly to strike when the company demanded a giveback contract, a key part of which would destine a growing majority of workers to permanent "part time" status.

The walkout began April 11 with picket lines set up at 64 stores. The workers are members of two locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). About 800 members of a separate UFCW meatcutters local at Kroger joined the strike.



Militant/Selva Nebbia
James Harris, Detroit socialist candidate.

Harris and Kealy are running for U.S. Congress in the 15th and 14th Congressional Districts in Detroit on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. Harris is a 44-year-old worker in an auto parts plant and member of United Auto Workers Local 155. Kealy, 25 years old, is a packinghouse worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

A new brochure distributed by supporters explains: "The 1992 campaigns have brought in focus the strong debates between capitalist politicians over how best to transfer more and more of the burden of the economic and social crisis onto the backs of working people around the world."

"Michigan has been one of the hardest-hit states in the current economic decline. The state's unemployment rate is almost 10 percent. The number of people getting food stamps is 13 percent — nearly one million persons — one out of every nine in the state. The number of homeless seeking emergency shelter in Detroit has gone up 21 percent since 1989. As brutal as these statistics are for Michigan, they only reflect the growing reality of the conditions of life of steadily-growing sections of this country's population."

Campaign forum of fighters

An April 18 rally, held at the Detroit Pathfinder Bookstore, drew veterans of various struggles as well as a number of young people attending their first socialist campaign event.

Harris explained to those present that the purpose of the campaign was to reach out to fighters with a perspective of how to fight

and how to win. "Only when we set a course to break with Democrats and Republicans can working people really begin to win victories," he explained.

"Fights will break out. Strikes will take place. What is not predetermined is whether the struggles will move forward into victories. That will be determined by the kind of leadership we are able to forge. We need a class-struggle leadership to move ahead."

Jennifer Tomlinson, a Kroger striker, also spoke at the rally. A high school student, Tomlinson came in contact with the socialist campaign through students at Plymouth-Canton High School who support the campaign.

She explained that while all the media coverage of the strike has been pro-Kroger, the picket lines have been strengthened by Teamsters, auto workers, teachers, and other working people who see this fight as theirs.

"It's a great experience to see people supporting you," she said.

Brent Lumsden, who participated in the April 5 march for abortion rights in Washington, D.C., spoke of his experiences as a member of Students Against Racism and Discrimination at Plymouth-Canton High School. He explained to the rally that when he heard about the socialist alternative he thought, "These people have something to say. They make

more sense than what's on TV."

In her presentation Kealy said the recent attacks on working people in Michigan are examples of what the employers and their government are attempting to carry out against working people around the world. These include: 8,000 Kroger workers forced out on strike by takeback demands, 80,000 welfare recipients cut off from aid by Gov. John Engler, the recent announcement of GM plant closings, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's demands for a wage freeze and other concessions from city workers, and increased racist attacks on college campuses.

"None of the Democrats or Republicans offer any relief, stability or lasting solution to the insecurities people have," Kealy said.

"This campaign is for the men and women from nowhere to grab ahold of, call their own, and utilize to bring clarity to those in struggle."

Kealy invites everyone to join with socialist campaigners at the Kroger picket lines; in Buffalo, New York, in defense of abortion clinics; and at the Socialist Education Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9.

Candace Wagner is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
May 8, 1967
Price 10c

The unexpectedly huge turnout for the April 15 Mobilization against the Vietnam war is having deep, encouraging political repercussions.

Consider the following developments that have occurred since April 15. First, Johnson deemed it necessary to bring General Westmoreland back from Vietnam decked out in full military regalia to defend his war and to lash out crudely against the opponents of the war. This unprecedented move was testimony to how seriously the administration takes the growth of the antiwar sentiment.

Then, for the first time, a new escalation of the war was met by significant criticism from such powerful Senate figures as Fulbright, Kennedy, Church, McGovern and four others.

Further, we now see some Republicans moving rather quickly to disassociate themselves from the war. This was first evidenced when Senator Thurston Morton, the powerful Republican from Kentucky who has backed the war, spoke out against the Westmoreland move to curb dissent.

Clearly, continuing militant mass demonstrations can have a powerful effect in fighting the warmakers. There should be no let up in this direction.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

May 9, 1942

Simply to mention the announced government perspective of drawing 4,000,000

women into war industry by 1943 brings up a myriad of practical questions concerning protection of working class rights. First consideration naturally falls upon equal pay for equal work.

This [demand] has received support in one place where favor would least be expected. The National Association of Manufacturers has declared itself in favor of the proposition of equal pay for men and women on the same job.

Since almost the entire bulk of women now entering industry goes in as unskilled labor and hence, according to employer conceptions, is worth an absolute minimum in wage-rate, it is reasonable to assume that the NAM will have only one objective: to scale the wage of the male worker down to that of the female.

These developments pose at once the problems of the unionization of women workers, an extremely crucial question for the development of the whole union movement.

On the whole, working class women in the past — most of them occupied as housewives, and not as factory workers — have been indifferent and even hostile to trade union struggle.

The reasons for the backwardness of working class housewives are numerous. On the whole, women were not thoroughly proletarianized by being forced — as they are in increasing numbers today — out of isolation of the kitchen into basic industrial production on a mass basis, with intense speed-up and exploitation.

Experiences of the past have shown too that where women went into the factories and the unions understood the necessity of organizing them, they became as good and militant union members as the men. The history of the garment and textile and in the more recent period the electrical and radio industries offers examples that immediately come to mind.

New Los Angeles police chief hired to refurbish battered police image

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The selection of Willie Williams as the first Black police chief in this city is a result of the public furor sparked by the March 1991 police beating of Rodney King.

Accepting the job, Williams, Philadelphia's former top cop, projected a carefully crafted image of being a different kind of cop than the present chief, Daryl Gates.

Gates has now set a retirement date of July 1 and is planning to leave feeling "bitter, very bitter."

Gates had come to symbolize the institutionalized violence and racism of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The King beating had triggered a substantial protest, particularly in the Black community. The protests focused on the demand for the ouster of Gates.

Gates has stubbornly insisted that the King beating was an aberration. Williams, to the contrary, started out by conceding that there was some justification for the charge of brutality and racism against the LAPD.

Appearing on the "Today" show, Williams declared, "When you look at the level of complaints, the fact that it was a significant level of minorities . . . Latinos, Asians, and Blacks that made these complaints over and over again, there has to be some validity there."

At the same time, Williams was quick to underline his professed belief that "very, very few" cops were responsible for this.

In a June referendum, a proposition will appear on the ballot embodying the "reform" measures proposed by the Christopher Commission — measures that they claim will curb the independent power of the LAPD and give City Hall a greater voice in its policies. The Christopher Commission was created after the King beating to study the functioning of the LAPD. The panel includes business figures, corporate lawyers, and educators.

Gates is urging a "no" vote on the commission's proposition, while Williams, on his arrival here, took a stand in favor of its passage.

Like the Christopher Commission and other partisans of the proposition, Williams argues its passage is necessary to restore public confidence in the police.

Tapping Williams for the job of chief is part of that same effort. It is intended to help refurbish the battered image of the LAPD.

But the reactionary nature and role of the LAPD did not begin with Daryl Gates. And it will not end with the unlamented departure of the ultrarightist chief.

Inescapably, as the present social crisis intensifies, the violence and racism of the police, here and nationwide, will also grow more intense.

But the bankers and businessmen who control the city cannot afford to have that reality become a widespread public perception. The selection of Williams, they hope, will help to obscure that harsh reality.

Abolish the death penalty now!

On April 21 California became the latest state to join in the death penalty rampage with the execution of Robert Alton Harris. Government officials in California were helped along in their rush to kill by an unprecedented ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court to deny all further stays of execution in the case. The robed reactionaries stayed up all night to make sure Harris wouldn't live one more day.

Harris's execution was the 169th since the Supreme Court restored capital punishment in the United States in 1976. Gary Gilmore's death in front of a Utah firing squad during President James Carter's administration started the government killing spree. Since then thirty-four states have put prisoners to death or have inmates on death row. California, Texas, and Florida each have more than 300 prisoners awaiting execution.

The death penalty is a barbaric and vindictive crime. There are no rich people on death row. It is aimed at working people and the poor — particularly Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans. Of the 328 California inmates on death row, 76 currently have no lawyer at all.

The racist nature of the death penalty is well documented. Blacks make up over 40 percent of the nearly 2,500 people on death row, in contrast to their 12.1 percent proportion of the population.

Capital punishment is a weapon of race and class op-

pression. It aims to reinforce the profit system by terrorizing the downtrodden and the outcast.

The government has primarily chosen inmates who have been accused of horrendous crimes as the initial victims of the death penalty, hoping to gain greater acceptance for its use. However, as depression conditions deepen, prompting more struggles on the part of labor and oppressed nationalities, the death penalty will be used more broadly against working-class fighters.

A massive campaign against the death penalty needs to be organized. The lives of thousands of people are at stake, including many who have been railroaded to jail and are guilty of no crime.

More than 1,000 people demonstrated outside the prison the night of Harris's execution. Thousands more need to be mobilized in order to stop further legal murders.

Socialist candidates running in California and nationwide are campaigning against capital punishment. Their campaigns will help to build any and all rallies, demonstrations, vigils, and other protests against legalized murder.

Protests must be organized again and again to demand:

- Stop the executions!
- Abolish the death penalty!

Stop the war in Yugoslavia

The *New York Times* and others within ruling circles in the United States and Britain are pushing for increased imperialist military intervention in Yugoslavia. The United Nations Security Council has discussed sending 10,000 more troops to the region, doubling the number of UN "Blue Helmets" already there.

In a *New York Times* column April 26, Anthony Lewis favorably quotes an unnamed British official who says, "We should tell the Serbs that unless they call off their aggression, we will bomb Belgrade."

Bomb Belgrade? What about the tens of thousands of Serbs who have protested the war and demanded the resignation of Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic? What about the youth there who have evaded the draft because they don't want anything to do with the bureaucracy's resource-grabbing wars against the neighboring republics of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and others?

Washington should do "much as it did in the Persian Gulf War," counsels the *Times* in its April 23 editorial.

The U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq was a war for oil and a war to advance the interests of the U.S. rulers in the Middle East, in which hundreds of thousands of Iraqis died and the livelihoods of millions of workers in the region were disrupted.

The calls of Lewis and the *Times'* editors for sending troops to Yugoslavia have nothing to do with defending workers and peasants or different ethnic groups. What Washington and its allies and rivals in Europe seek in Yugoslavia is stability for their business interests. The *New York Times* in effect says, "If we can't control them, bomb them."

The war in Yugoslavia is a war being waged by competing bureaucracies, all using nationalist rhetoric to maintain their rule and the privileges that go with their positions. The Serbian bureaucrats based in Belgrade, with their control of the Yugoslav army, have outgunned their rivals and succeeded in wresting chunks of territory away from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It wasn't always this way in Yugoslavia. In the course of expelling the Nazi armies during World War II, Yugoslavia's workers and farmers from a wide variety of nationalities and ethnic groups united to overcome the divisions that had been fostered by the capitalist-landlord ruling class. As the revolution advanced, industry was nationalized and land distributed to the peasants.

But instead of moving to deepen the self-confidence, political consciousness, organization, and mobilization of the working class, Josip Tito, Yugoslavia's president at the time, and the leaders around him created a self-serving bureaucracy. In recent years the bureaucrats, fighting for their part of the trough, began making nationalist appeals to bolster their crumbling authority.

The destructive wars of 1991 and 1992 are the result of decades of bureaucratic degeneration of the revolution that Yugoslavia's workers and peasants made in the 1940s.

The antiwar demonstrations in Belgrade and Sarajevo and the multi-national character of the militias defending Bosnia-Herzegovina — made up of Croats, Muslims, Serbs, and Albanians — underline that there is another possible road forward in Yugoslavia. In the course of fighting against the war and national chauvinism, Yugoslavia's workers and peasants can return to the traditions and legacy of the Yugoslav revolution.

Operation Rescue can be beaten

Supporters of a woman's right to abortion have scored a victory by keeping open the four abortion clinics in Buffalo, New York, that have been targeted by Operation Rescue's "Spring of Life" campaign. By the end of the first week of the confrontation, pro-choice forces had clearly outmobilized the rightists, dealing a blow to their national effort to physically shut down the Buffalo clinics.

The pro-choice countermobilization is also a setback for the government's drive to push back abortion rights. The Supreme Court is now hearing a Pennsylvania case that could sharply restrict or overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

The Buffalo clinic defense actions build on the success of the massive April 5 demonstration of half a million in Washington, D.C. Mobilizations like these, drawing large numbers of people into action on the streets, are an essential part of the road forward to defend abortion rights.

Many women's rights supporters in Buffalo and around the country have said they learned from the experience last summer in Wichita, Kansas, where Operation Rescue carried out a six-week siege and blockade of abortion clinics that succeeded in closing them down for a time. Abortion rights activists did not organize from the start of the rightist offensive to defend the Wichita clinics. But they then saw how the police, which some had counted on to protect the clinics there, instead sided with the rightists.

The government assault on the right to abortion has been bipartisan from the start, beginning with the 1976 Hyde

Amendment in which the Democratic-controlled Congress cut off Medicaid funding for abortions for poor women. In Buffalo it is a Democratic mayor that welcomed Operation Rescue to the city.

The two parties of big business have escalated their assault on abortion rights because their system has entered the worst economic and social crisis since the 1930s. The response of the wealthy rulers of this country is to drive down the living standard and rights of working people. An inseparable part of this is their effort to reinforce the second-class status of women by taking away a woman's right to control her own body.

The right to abortion is far from dead, however. This conquest was won through hard-fought struggles that were boosted by the massive social struggles of the 1960s and 70s for Black rights and against the Vietnam war. Similarly, the defense of this right today will be decided in the streets in struggles like the battle in Buffalo. Right-wing forces like Operation Rescue and the Lambs for Christ understand this clearly.

The turnout of hundreds of people from around the country in Buffalo — overwhelmingly young women and men, many of them participating in their first political action — shows the potential for massively mobilizing the majority pro-choice sentiment among working people. Adding reinforcements to the clinic defenders in Buffalo and following their example around the country will help deal a decisive defeat to Operation Rescue and the government's antiabortion offensive.

Protest planned against rightist killing of homeless man

BY MICHAEL GEISMAIER

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Like a growing number of unemployed workers in this country Benny Rembert found himself without a place to live — homeless. Rembert was also Black.

These two facts of Rembert's life made him and those like him a ready target for a group of young fascist-minded toughs here.

Rembert, 36, was stabbed to death in the early morning hours on April 18. He was ambushed by a group of ultra-rightist skinheads, members of an outfit that calls itself the Aryan National Front.

The Committee against Hate Crimes, a group of civic, religious, and political organizations, is planning a candlelight march May 4 to protest the killing.

Jim Snyder, associate director of the Jimmie Hale Mission here, which provides housing to many homeless men, told local newspapers that other homeless people witnessed Rembert's murder. "They're too scared to come forward," he told the press.

Aaron Jones, who like Rembert is homeless, was not afraid to talk to the press. He told local reporters that he, Rembert, and eight others were attacked by about 20 skinheads while they slept under a viaduct in the city three days before Rembert's murder.

The fascist group armed with knives and sticks descended upon the men shouting, "Niggers, we're gonna kill you, you better run." Rembert along with the others escaped that night. Three days later he did not.

According to reports in the press here, Rembert is at least the fourth homeless person murdered in the city since December.

On December 24, Douglas Garrett, 50, who was also Black, was found clubbed to death under the same viaduct where Rembert was found murdered. That same day another homeless man reported to police that he had been thrown off the viaduct by a group of skinheads.

While local skinhead spokesperson William Satterfield claims his Aryan National Front is not responsible for the attack, he acknowledges that two skinheads arrested for Rembert's murder are members of the outfit.

Satterfield has stated to area newspapers and on at least one television interview program that his group is attempting to recruit youth in the area and organize them into gangs. In addition to their attacks on the homeless, local skinheads were also involved in a fight outside a predominantly Jewish fraternity at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

In the interview on the "Top o' the Morning" TV program produced by the local NBC affiliate, Satterfield disclaimed the label "white supremacist" for his group. He preferred the label "white separatist." Satterfield claimed "whites" in the United States are in danger of being overwhelmed due to a low birthrate and immigration from non-European countries.

Census counts of "whites," said Satterfield, are misleading since they count many people of "mixed race" and "Jews."

Broad outrage expressed

Many area organizations have expressed outrage at the murder of Rembert. The April 24 issue of the *Birmingham News* carried an editorial denouncing the murder. The same day area religious leaders held a news conference to voice their opposition. John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Alabama's 7th District, blasted the killing.

"This act of wanton violence deserves the condemnation of all decent human beings and must be met by an appropriate response," said Hawkins.

"I and the other Socialist Workers candidates call upon the city administration to apprehend and prosecute to the full extent of the law those responsible for this crime, and to take whatever measures necessary to provide emergency housing for the homeless."

Pointing to recent anti-Semitic activities of local skinheads and to reported beatings of homeless men, mostly Black, over the last several weeks, Hawkins stated, "We also call upon the labor movement, civil rights organizations, women's organizations, Jewish organizations, and youth in the area to organize a public demonstration of their outrage and disgust at the actions of this racist, anti-Semitic, antilabor outfit."

"These local skinhead gangs, like other ultra-rightist and fascist forces across the country, are taking encouragement from the campaign for Patrick Buchanan for the Republican Party presidential nomination. Buchanan, a fascist-minded demagogue who tries to minimize the crimes of Nazism, echoes their doctrine and seeks to organize them into a coherent nationwide movement," Hawkins added.

"Through united action working people and all defenders of democratic rights in this area can send them a clear message — that we reject their venomous politics and murderous actions and will not tolerate them."

Ohio electrical workers strike against concessions

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standard, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the

current wage levels.

- Abolition of union representation on the job by not allowing stewards to file grievances during work hours without permission from a supervisor.

ON THE PICKET LINE

world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

More than 400 members of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 757 struck the Formica Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a contract dispute April 12.

After 37 days at the bargaining table, the company refused to budge from its demand for severe concessions. Some 82 percent of the members voted against the company's contract proposal.

Faced with large interest payments resulting from a 1985 leveraged buy-out, Formica management is trying to make the IUE production workers pay. According to chief shop steward Floyd Gadberry, "The company is virtually trying to gut the entire contract. My dad worked out here, and now they're trying to take back everything he and others fought for during 40 years."

Concessions demanded by the company include:

- A two-tier wage system with a pay scale that would never meet

- Violations of seniority rights, with the company insisting on the right to randomly place people when job reassignments are deemed necessary.

- Contract language that would allow the company to subcontract out work.

- Reduced medical benefits for which workers would pay more.

- A new work schedule of 36 hours per week with three 12-hour shifts at regular pay.

- Authorization of salaried people to do "incidental" union work.

"I think all these corporations are jumping on the bandwagon," said striker Lu Robinson. "If Formica has enough work to be running seven days a week, around the clock, then their business is good. If working people don't start banding together to stop them, businesses are going to push us back 50 years."

IUE Local 757 president Clyde Tucker commented, "We are aware that the decision to strike under the current economic situation is a difficult one to make. In the case of our local, some families have more than one member out on strike. The main issue for us has nothing to do with money. We are fighting to save our union."

Canadian auto workers vote for concessions

Members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 222 in Oshawa, Ontario, near Toronto, approved concessionary modifications of their contract on the issue of mandatory overtime April 1. Nearly 80 percent voted in favor of the changes.

The workers at the General Motors complex in Oshawa, which employs 14,500 at two car plants, a truck plant, and other operations,

were under company threats to give concessions or risk having one of the car plants shut down in the near future.

Under the new overtime agreement, GM can schedule one hour of mandatory overtime on alternate days twice a week. Since the existing contract allowed for mandatory overtime of up to eight hours by using a Saturday shift, the new agreement reduces the Saturday mandatory overtime to six hours. It maintains the 48-hour maximum per week including overtime.

The Oshawa workers did not give in without a fight. There was a big discussion on whether concessions save jobs. On March 17, a slim majority turned down an initial overtime plan submitted by newly elected Local 222 president John Caines.

That plan would have given GM considerable flexibility to schedule overtime several times during the week as well as Saturdays, ignoring the 48-hour limit. It included a provision allowing not more than 15 percent of the work force to refuse to work overtime.

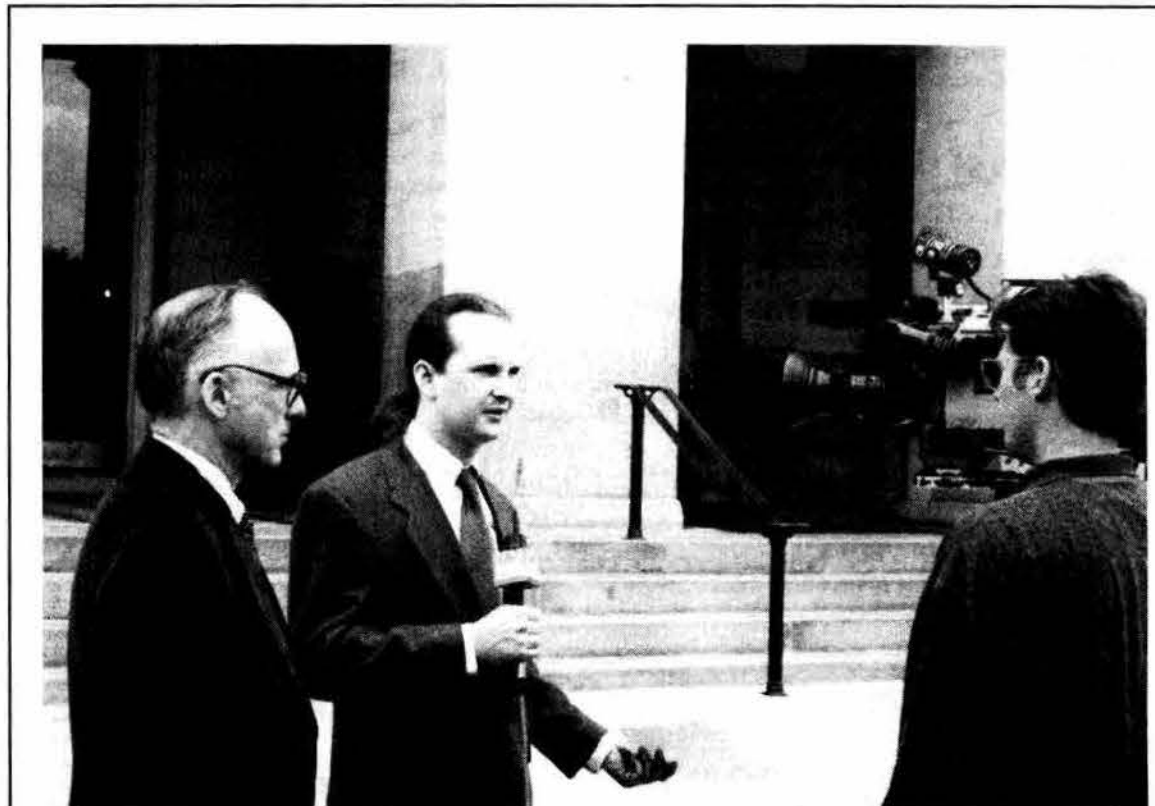
Following the first plan's rejection, CAW president Robert White headed up negotiations with GM and submitted the new proposal, which was adopted. In urging acceptance of shifts longer than eight hours, White blamed Japanese imports, the U.S.-Canada free-trade agreement, and the economic recession for the sorry state of the North American auto industry.

"GM comes to us in the middle of a contract and says 'do this or else.' This sounds like a threat. I

don't like threats," said one worker who indicated he would vote against the proposal.

"Not many like the deal," said a second worker, "nor do they like GM pitting one plant against another." Several workers thought most would vote for the deal because "we have to save our jobs." Others thought the deal would mean more workers accepting additional overtime now, with most staying eight hours on Saturdays to make the commuting time worth the effort.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Valerie Libby, member of United Auto Workers Local 647 at General Electric Jet Engines in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Robert Simms from Toronto.



Militant Joe Swanson
Socialist Workers candidates in California held a press conference to publicize their election campaigns at the state capitol in Sacramento April 16. Pictured are Joel Britton (left), candidate for U.S. Senate, and Michael Goldwater, candidate for U.S. Congress in the 8th District. The socialist candidates denounced the use of the death penalty in California and spoke out against Washington's war moves against Libya, Iraq, and North Korea.

LETTERS

Chicago flood

It is being labelled "The Chicago Flood of 1992" in order to stress the comparison with "The Chicago Fire of 1871" and it is on the mark.

Although no one was killed or injured by the disaster the fact is the full force of the catastrophe has not yet been felt. Up to this point mainly just stores and businesses have been closed in the downtown section because their basements were flooded. One line of the subway system has been shut down through the Loop area and another re-routed to the elevated tracks that circle above the downtown. The long term ramifications have yet to come to light.

Not a small part of the discussion that is taking place in official circles, however, is "who is to blame." Not surprisingly the politicians of the Democratic Party who run the city are spending most of their time trying to explain why they had nothing to do with the fact that cable service crews videotaped and reported the wall erosion on January 14, but no repairs had been made before the April 13 collapse.

Attempting to lay the guilt on one or another individual is a dodge aimed at covering up for the guilt of the capitalist system.

In order to maintain a "favorable business climate," as they call it, the representatives of the capitalist parties have dutifully shifted more and more of the tax burden off industrial magnates and onto the working class while they cut and eliminate social

services and have refused to repair the decaying infrastructure of the cities that we, but not they, live in.

The pages of the bosses' newspapers are full of speculation of mass transit fare increases or service cuts, state and city employee layoffs, and increases in home real estate taxes. Their line is "we" are going to pay mightily for this mess.

The working class needs to assert its own interests in this situation. That means demanding that there be a massive public works campaign launched to repair our cities and that the money to pay for it come from the war budget and the payment of interest to the banks on the national debt.

The businessmen, bankers and their politicians inaugurated policies which led to this disaster, just one of many more to come as they themselves openly predict. Only if we assert our interests can the working class avert future "great floods" and their harmful consequences.

John Votava
Chicago, Illinois

Reliable information

Keep up the good work with the *Militant*. I value it as a source of reliable information. It is essential for working people to understand what is being done to us so that we will have the knowledge and understanding to bring the needed social changes.

Jerry Williamson
Gainesville, Florida

Buy the 'Militant'

I wanted to thank you personally because I think the *Militant* is a very fine and straight-forward newsweekly that working people from all walks of life need to get out there and buy.

A prisoner
Alden, New York

Working at Wal-Mart

Sam Walton, owner of Wal-Mart department stores, died April 5. He was listed by *Forbes* magazine as the richest person in the U.S. A story hailing his life and economic accomplishments appeared on the front page of the *New York Times* and many newspapers across the country.

Walton made his money, according to the *Times* article, by "entrancing legions of low paid loyal workers with a simple refrain — help customers, cut costs, and share profits."

I worked for Wal-Mart in Price, Utah, for ten months last year. The growth of the Wal-Mart discount chain is the product of the current economic depression and the anti-working-class offensive of the last decade. The stores were mostly set up in poor, economically wiped out rural America. By discounting prices, Wal-Mart tries to drive out all of its competitors, especially hurting the small businesses. Wal-Mart attempts to create monopoly markets, allowing them to raise

prices. With high unemployment, there is a ready available workforce. In Price, 1,500 people lined up for 150 minimum wage jobs when the store opened last year.

Many workers at first are thankful for their job and getting on with a successful company. But the illusion quickly comes to an end. Most workers only get part-time work with no benefits. Without a union, management disciplines the work force through firings, cut hours, and frame-ups. There is a big work force turnover, which management views as helping keep the labor costs low.

Most Wal-Mart workers did not shed any tears when Sam Walton died. I think Malcolm X had one of the best ways of looking at our oppressor. Malcolm said if the slave master's house is on fire, pray for a strong wind. When the master is sick and calls for a doctor, send the doctor in the opposite direction.

Mike Fitzsimmons
New York, New York

Sister City in Cuba

The Colorado Cuba Information Project is asking the Denver City Council to declare Havana, Cuba, its sister city.

Although the United States Government maintains an economic blockade against Cuba, we believe the Cold War is over and the time has come to treat Cuba's 10 million citizens as neighbors, not as enemies.

Many public officials in Havana

now consider Denver a sister city in the U.S. In 1991, five Cuban students from the University of Havana visited Denver and the University of Colorado in the first-ever student exchange program between the two countries.

This sister city project is an opportunity for the people of metropolitan Denver to open a door for friendship, peace, human understanding, and cultural exchange with the people of Havana.

Please send messages of support to Mayor Wellington Webb, 1437 Bannock St., Room 350, Denver CO 80202 (Fax: 303-640-2636). If possible, send copies to the Colorado Cuba Information Project at P.O. Box 13202, Denver, CO 80201.

Jamie York
Boulder, Colorado

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Miami protest: End Cuba embargo!

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

MIAMI, Florida — More than 200 people, mostly Cuban-Americans, called for an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba in an April 16 protest here.

"The terrorists are those who back the blockade against the Cuban people," read a banner in Spanish, unfurled by two young women who joined the picket line in front of the offices of Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

A few days before the protest, Ros-Lehtinen told the press she was opposed to the Torricelli Bill, which is before Congress, because it is not restrictive enough. The bill, known as the "Cuban Democracy Act of

A representative of the Association of Workers in the Community, which together with the Antonio Maceo Brigade organized the picket line, said that the demonstrators oppose both the Torricelli Bill and any other restrictions on travel or exchange with Cuba. The two groups turned in petitions protesting the economic blockade with 31,000 signatures — 18,500 of them from the Cuban community in Miami — to the U.S. Congress and State Department April 7.

Several participants in the action explained why they joined the protest.

"My mother in Cuba suffers from rheumatism and I want to be able to send her medicine," Juan said. "Right now everything has to be sent through Spain or Mexico. That's bad enough. Making things more difficult is an injustice."

Ricardo, a hotel worker, said his family lives in Villa Clara, Cuba. "I'm here because Cuba must belong to Cubans, not to the Americans," he stated. "I will participate in anything that favors Cuba."

A student from Miami Dade County Community College said she joined the protest because her son, mother, and brothers live in Cuba.

"In my case, I'm 75 years old and I'm desperate to go back to visit," a cafeteria worker said. He complained about the difficulty of telephone calls to Cuba due to U.S. restrictions. "It gets easier if you call at odd hours of the night, but it's a problem."

Many of the protesters took issue with the

right-wing policies of the Cuban American National Foundation and its leader Jorge Mas Canosa. "Ileana and Mas Canosa are the same thing," was a popular chant.

Among other participants in the picket were the owner of a tow-truck company, a pastor from a Baptist church, and a number of housewives.

Though Miami is a center both for right-wing Cuban groups that favor strengthening the 30-year U.S. blockade and growing numbers of the Cubans in the United States who oppose the blockade, there were few incidents at the protest. One man in a new Mercedes Benz — who some protesters identified as an associate of Radio Mambi, the most listened to right-wing station in Miami — stopped across the street and shouted that the pickets were "communists." He was quickly drowned out by chants of "terrorist" and "Cuba yes, blockade no!"

A van of Haitian workers, work tools in hand, honked and raised their fists



Militant/Nancy Cole
Banners from Association of Workers in the Community and others at 1989 protest against TV Martí. Picket line this year against embargo attracted 200, mostly Cuban-Americans.

Thousands of signatures against U.S. embargo of Cuba were collected from Miami Cuban-Americans

1992," would prohibit trade with Cuba by subsidiaries of U.S. corporations abroad, impose sanctions on other countries that do business with Cuba, and limit remittances from Cuban-Americans. Ros-Lehtinen objected to provisions in the bill that while strengthening some aspects of the embargo, would lift restrictions on phone and mail service.

'Police are the criminals,' say family's supporters in London protest against cop violence

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

LONDON — Supporters of the Deane Family Defence Campaign picketed the opening of the trial of Tony and Arnold Deane at Newham Magistrates Court in Stratford, east London, April 21. They chanted, "Deane family, innocent," and "Who are the criminals? Police are the criminals!"

Tony and his father Arnold were arrested outside their business premises Nov. 4, 1991. Each was charged with assaulting a police officer.

The charges arose when Tony Deane, who is Black, was approached by two cops for information on an incident they were investigating across the road. When he explained that he knew nothing about it, the police viciously assaulted Tony, injuring him severely. Tony's father Arnold, who was standing nearby, pleaded with the police not to kill his son. The officers responded so ferociously to his pleas that the 53-year-old man had to be taken to Newham General Hospital for emergency treatment for head and facial injuries.

At the trial police officers Knock and Sullivan, accused the Deanes of attacking them. While presenting his evidence Sullivan said, "Anthony Deane pushed me with his left hand in the centre of my chest and swung his right hand in a clenched fist. Police Constable Knock grabbed Deane's right hand. At this point Deane became extremely violent. It was because of his violence that he was restrained," he claimed.

In justifying the attacks on Arnold Deane, Sullivan said he received several heavy blows to the head while restraining Tony Deane. "I looked up and saw it was Arnold Deane. He was swinging both his hands in my direction."

The medical evidence presented to the court described Sullivan's injuries as a bruise to the right cheek, a graze above the right ankle and a cut to the left index finger. This was despite his claim that Tony Deane violently attacked him, and that Arnold

Deane inflicted four hard blows to the back of his head. This was in contrast to the gash and swelling on Tony Deane's face, and back injuries. Arnold Deane, who is a severe asthmatic, collapsed after being punched in the face and had to be revived with a respirator by ambulance staff.

During cross-examination defence lawyers, Icah Peart and Terry Munyard, pointed out that the entries in both Knock and Sullivan's report notebooks were identical. The lawyers explained that while police are allowed to confer after an incident, these notes were so similar that they would have to have been copied or dictated.

Knock and Sullivan had both entered in

"We want to highlight that police brutality is used daily against the Black community..."

their notebooks that they had cautioned Tony and read him his rights at 1:10 p.m. In fact they did not caution him until after he was at the police station at 1:54 p.m.

There were other inconsistencies in Knock and Sullivan's recollection of the events. When "restraining" Tony Deane, Sullivan testified that he was sitting on Deane's chest, while Knock was sitting on his legs. In Knock's version he was kneeling on Deane's left-hand side, and Sullivan on his right-hand side. During cross-examination Knock denied either of them sat on Tony Deane.

The trial was adjourned until June 25.

In the period leading up to the trial, the Deane Family Defence Campaign received wide support in east London. This support reached its high point March 28 when 3,000 people marched through the area supporting the Deanes and protesting the assault by the cops as yet another instance of police brutality in the community.

Bush announces further trade restrictions on Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

President George Bush announced new restrictions on trade with Cuba April 18, from his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

"I am today instructing the Treasury Department to restrict further shipping to Cuba by issuing regulations that will prohibit entry into U.S. ports of vessels that are engaged in trade with Cuba," the president said in a statement.

"We are closer than ever to our goal of returning freedom to Cuba," Bush claimed, citing the sharp drop in trade between Cuba and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Bush said that he backed the "objectives" of Congressman Robert Torricelli's "Cuban Democracy Act of 1992," which seeks to strengthen the U.S. embargo of Cuba. But he criticized two provisions that would allow improved phone service with the island and the sale of food and medi-

cine, stating this would "without intending to do so, weaken the embargo." Food and medicine shipments to Cuba are currently allowed only as donations to individuals and some nongovernmental organizations.

"We cannot permit either the sale of medicines or the donation of food to the Castro regime itself," Bush said, asserting that this would "directly aid the security forces of the Castro dictatorship and could contribute to the building of a biotechnology industry."

Bush also called for new legislation that would allow strengthened civil penalties for violating the embargo.

The president's statement did not mention the heart of the bill, which would restrict subsidiaries of U.S. firms in other countries from trading with Cuba. A Bush administration official told Reuters that the White House opposes stiffer restrictions in this case.

Following the trial Hossein Zahir, a worker for the Newham Monitoring Project, spoke about the need to protest the frame-up. The Newham Monitoring Project was set up two years ago in response to the racist murder of Aktar Ali Baig. The project continues to campaign and fight against racist and police harassment, and in general to fight against the criminalization of the Black community by the police.

"We must not just demand the overturning of this case," Zahir explained, "but show that the police cannot continue to get away with these methods. It's so common that Black people are stopped and searched and then criminalized."

"The community in Newham is directly under attack," he continued. "We want to highlight that police brutality doesn't start and end with the Tottenham Three, but is a method they use daily to attack the Black community. Innocent people are being criminalized."

The Tottenham Three are young people who were framed up and convicted of the murder of Police Constable Blakelock in 1987. Their convictions were overturned in 1991.

Joyce Fairchild is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union and works at Marriot GCC in flight at Heathrow airport.